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1637-1887

HISTORICAL ADDRESS

OF

THE FIRST

MUNSON FAMILY REUNION

HELD IN THE

CITY OF NEW HAVEN,

Wednesday, August 17, 1887.

NEW HAVEN:

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1887.

HISTORICAL ADDRESS

BY

REV. MYRON A. MUNSON, M. A.,

A great-great-great-great-great-grandson of Capt. Thomas Munson.

I congratulate you, admirable and esteemed cousins, upon the dawning of our Quarter-Millennial. Arise we and with reverent hands break the seal and roll away the stone from the mouth of the family sepulchre.

Salutatory. This day is the resurrection of the name and the fame of our greatest grandsire, Thomas Munson. With him, at his august beck, step forth from their shadowy habitations in God's-acre sterling sons and delectable daughters by thousands, smiling and glad though serene, to join with voiceless fellowship and silent rejoicings in our commemorative and congratulatory festival.

Our Adam. Half a thousand minds are eagerly inquiring: What was the origin of our venerable originator? He suddenly emerges from silence and darkness,—his antecedents as mysterious as those of the lightning's flash. He was never born,—so far as history knows. Do we not conceive of the Adam of the human race as about twenty-five years of age at the moment of his creation? In a similar manner the Adam of our family, without any antecedents or any nativity, suddenly makes his appearance on the stage of life, like a new creation, at the age of twenty-five. This first appearance was at Hartford, by the Indians called Suckiaug, two hundred and fifty years ago last May, and he is already accoutred as a soldier,

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about to engage in a war as pregnant with momentous results, it may be, as any which has ever been waged.

At that period the region from the Atlantic ocean to the Alleghanies was one vast, solemn forest,—a paradise of war-paths and hunting-grounds. The throne of Indian

Indian
Situation
in 1637.

power was among The Five Nations, of central New York,—usually called The Mohawks, from that confederate which enjoyed the supremacy.

Proud, warlike, vehement, irresistible, their name was a terror to all other red-men. Every spring, two old Mohawk chiefs might have been seen going from village to village through Connecticut, collecting tribute and haughtily issuing orders from the great council at Onondaga.

The number of Indians who were occupying the territory now known as the State of Connecticut has been very diversely estimated at from six or seven to twelve or twenty thousand. These estimates imply from 1200 to 4000 warriors. It is conceived that one-half of these may have been Pequots, whose forts and wigwams extended along the Sound some thirty miles. The Thames, on which New London is situated, was then called Pequot river, and one of the two great forts of the nation—the one at which the historic battle occurred—was located eight miles northeast of New London. The Pequots were the most ambitious, the most valiant, the most fierce and the most powerful by far of all the communities eastward of the Hudson. They were a terror to all the wide-reaching wilderness around them: they were to New England what the Mohawks were to the whole country eastward of the Mississippi. To them, as well as to the Mohawks, the Quinnipiacs of this neighborhood paid tribute.

Such was the Indian situation in the spring of 1637:

what was that of the Colonists? Hartford was two years old: north and south of it, adjoining, were Windsor and

Colonists'
Situation
in 1637.

Wethersfield. Twenty-six miles north was Agawam, one year old; we know it as Springfield.

Sixty miles below Hartford,—forty-six as the crow flies,—at the mouth of the river, on the west shore, was Saybrook fort, one year old. These five infant settlements were the only habitations of white men in all the Connecticut valley. Their neighbors were about a hundred miles distant, and mind you these were roadless, wilderness miles. There was no New Haven. Milford, Guilford, Middletown, Waterbury,—but, rather, Quinnipiac, Wepowaug, Menunkatuc, Mattabesett, Mattatuck. The Bay State had no Westfield, Northfield, Deerfield, Hadley or Northampton,—but, instead, Woronoco, Squakheag, Pocomtuck, Norwottock and Nonotuck. Accordingly when trouble arose with the Pequots the aspect of affairs was extremely serious. The white settlements could muster two hundred and fifty or two hundred and seventy-five men capable of bearing arms: there were 5000 Indian braves within easy marching distance of the mouth of the Connecticut.

Endicott's expedition, calling the Pequots to account for murders, converted that nation into a gigantic hornets' nest. Killing whites became their recreation. Several at

Wethersfield were assassinated and two girls were carried into captivity. The savages, dressed in the clothes of the English whom they had murdered, would approach the fort at Saybrook with defiant jeers: "Come out and get your clothes again!" and they would mimic and mock the prayers and shrieks and groans of the wretched colonists whom they had tortured. Great was the distress of the settlements. A cunning and ferocious enemy haunted them and hunted them day and night.

(Storm Rising.)

Ninety men, of whom forty-two were furnished by Hartford, descended the Connecticut under the leadership of Capt. Mason, and sailed eastward past the Pequot country to the vicinity of Point Judith: seventy-seven men disembarked among the Narragansetts, took up their march westerly, and, at daybreak on the 5th of June, surprised one of the hostile forts—a palisade on a hill, enclosing about an acre, and embracing seventy wigwams. A dog barked—a Pequot yelled, "Owanux! Owanux!" In rushed the lion-like pale-faces and engaged in a desultory, heroic warfare. At length, in desperation, the commander seized a fire-brand and applied it to the dry mats with which one of the rude dwellings was covered. Several hundred of the Pequots perished by the musket, the sword and the conflagration, and only seven escaped.

While the victorious army was retreating, three hundred warriors, dispatched by Sassacus from the other fortress, rapidly approached until they beheld the smoking and smouldering ruins which were the crematory of their brethren; then stamping and tearing their hair, they rushed down with great fury upon the conquerors. They were promptly repulsed, with a hundred slain and wounded.

It was in this terrific war, pregnant with inexpressibly momentous consequences, that Thomas Munson made his first appearance, two centuries and a half ago; and he was preëminently a military man during the forty-eight years which followed.

You may note, if you please, that our spirited and intrepid soldier received an allotment in the Soldiers' Field, (on the northern margin of Hartford,) in recognition of his meritorious services in this war, and that he was subsequently presented with an additional hundred acres for the same cause.¹

¹ "The Soldiers' Field and its Original Proprietors," by F. H. Parker, Esq.

We have recognized that Hartford was two years old at the date of the Pequot war; whether Soldier Munson had been there from the beginning, as is most (Twilight.) likely, we are not informed. He had probably spent some months or years in the older towns about Massachusetts Bay; but we lack light upon the subject. Boston, at the time of the war, was seven years old; Salem, nine.; Plymouth, seventeen.

Munson's Transatlantic History.

In respect to his transatlantic history there is nothing known with positiveness. Traditions have come down, along numerous and widely separated family lines, that he had some kind of connection with Wales; and it is the only tradition concerning him which has any value whatever. In some way his early history acquired a Welsh tinge. But there is no doubt of his English nationality. The Monson race belonging to the peerage has a known and accepted history of five hundred years; our American history extends back one-half that distance; the presumption is almost a certainty that our branch is from that ancient trunk. Lord Monson, Aide-de-Camp to the Queen, concluded his fourth letter to me, 11 March, 1887, in this graceful way: "With best wishes for the welfare of my Transatlantic Cousins and for the success of your Autumnal gathering." A brother of Lord Monson, Sir Edmund, Her Majesty's Minister to the King of Denmark, wrote from Copenhagen, July 24, 1886: "When I was appointed Attaché to the British Legation at Washington, in 1858, my Father, Lord Monson, . . . was very anxious to know the subsequent career of the Monsons which had emigrated to America in the

Seventeenth Century." Sir Edmund observes again: "I have little doubt that our common ancestor was a Dane."

Turning from things obscure, let us return to what may be known. Our forefather was born two hundred and seventy-five years ago, somewhere, and two hundred and

fifty years ago was a pioneer of Hartford and participated in the Pequot war; after the war, he continued to reside in that plantation a little more than two years, apparently,—having a house-lot comprising two and one-half acres on the present High street, opposite the head of Walnut: this street was then known as "the highway leading from the Cow-pasture to Mr. Allen's land." There was a house on this ground in February, 1640, which was probably built by Munson. Previously to this date he had sold the place to Nath. Kellogge, and he had also sold his portion of the Soldiers' Field. Two parcels of land, on opposite sides of the Connecticut river, had been forfeited by his removal from the plantation.

In 1639, at the age of twenty-seven, Thomas became a pioneer of New Haven, then known as Quinnipiac. The settlement was begun the preceding year. The beginners

had laid out a town-site half a mile square, having its base, on the south, parallel to the West

Creek, and having its east side parallel with East Creek; both of these arms of the sea were navigable.

The town-plot was divided into nine equal squares, of which the central was called the Market-place.

designed for public uses; it is the famous Green, upon which we are now assembled. Each of the

eight streets was called "the towne streete"—having no distinctive name, and at the end of each there was a gate. In the Market-place the military forces were drilled, and here they assembled when an alarm was sounded. Here was the watch-house, the head-quarters of the night-

*Pioneer of
Hartford.*

*Pioneer of
New Haven.*

*(Town-
Square.)*

watchmen. Here were the other public buildings,—and especially *the* public building called the Meeting-house, which was the sanctuary where all worshiped, but also the town-house, court-house, state-house, and, to some extent at least, the arsenal. “The Church of Christ in New Haven,” which was the only ecclesiastical organization within the limits of the present town during the first one hundred and four years of its history, still survives and has opened to us its hospitable doors on this occasion.

The “Proprietors” purchased lands from the Indians with a common fund, and there were nine “divisions” of different sections of the so-called common-land, extending over a hundred and twenty years.¹ The amount of land

(Lands.) each proprietor received in the distribution was determined by his investment in the common stock, the number of heads in his family, his official dignity, and other considerations. The size of the house-lots in the town-square was similarly determined. To certain settlers who did not contribute to the common stock “small lots” were granted,—most of them along the West Creek, opposite the town-square. Such “planters” also received limited allotments of land in the second “division,”—“layd out beyond the East River betwixt our pastors farme and the Indians wiggwams.”

On the north side of the town-square was the house-lot of Robert Newman, afterwards ruling-elder. That lot, of perhaps two and one-half acres, is now divided by Temple street, whose superb Gothic arch of elms you admired as

(A Barn.) you were entering this sanctuary. On Mr. Newman’s place was a barn,—Cotton Mather calls it “a mighty barn,”—which was utilized as a place of civic and religious assembly before the erection of a meeting-house. In that historic barn the constitution of the

¹ Ninth division in 1760.

colony was created in June, 1639. It was ordained that those not present¹ who were to be "planters," should subscribe this "Fundamental Agreement," as it was called, with their own hand; and so it comes to pass that we have the autograph of Thomas Munson, which is sixth in a list of forty-eight.

The first *definite* date touching Thomas Munson's history as a New Havener is April 3d, 1640, when the court ordered "thatt brother Andrewes and brother Mounson shall veiw the grounds of difference betwixt Mr. Malbon and Thomas Mouleno^r the elder." This appointment was complimentary to "brother Mounson" as a new-comer, and only twenty-eight years of age.

And now, patient seekers for knowledge, we have somewhat tediously worked our way through the fogs and snags and sand-bars of the subject into an open sea where fair sailing rewards us.

Private Biography.

The private biography of our ancestor, as known to us, is very brief.

As early as 1640, he received one of the "small lots" on the south side of George Street, along the West Creek. Eleven years later, intending probably to remove to Delaware Bay, he disposed of his lot together with a dwelling-house, barn, shop, hen-house, garden and trees. His residence the next five years is unrevealed. In 1656, he bought the lot on the southeast corner of Elm and Church streets, opposite the Green, where the "Blue Meeting-house" afterwards stood; just below, on Elm street, were the habitations of Mr. Davenport and Gov. Eaton.

¹ Sixty-three names of those present were inscribed by the secretary.

Six years later he purchased the place formerly owned by Robert Newman on Grove street—now bisected by Temple street. This was his home during the last twenty-three years of his life. His neighbor eastward was Andrewes, the ex-innkeeper: his neighbors westward were Benjamin Linge and his life-long guest, Col. Dixwell, the regicide. Capt. Munson's home was afterwards owned by his son and three of his grandsons successively: and in more recent times Noah Webster, the maker of dictionaries, had a residence on that ground.

Thomas was the father of three children: Elizabeth, the wife of Richard Higginbotham, a tailor, who removed to Elizabethtown, N. J., and thence to Stamford; Samuel, to whom we shall return later; and Hannah, who married Joseph Tuttle.

We know little of the domestic animals which added animation to the home-life of these children; but there is distinct mention of a dog—not a detestable barking whelp, but an exemplary creature—one that is silent, thoughtful and courageous, and willing to bite—when that is his duty. This worthy fellow's function was to discourage stupidity. Accordingly, in 1661, just ten days before the arrival of Goffe and Whalley, some ill-natured inhabitant complained of certain “doggs w^{ch} bite horses as they passe in the streets, to the endangering of their Riders: Sargent Munsons dogg, and Thos. Johnsons dogg, was spoken off.” Well—some people are hard to please. Sydney Smith says he once heard a man “speak disrespectfully of the equator.”

Our first father owned lands which he cultivated; but his trade was that of a carpenter. He and Boykin contracted to do a part of the work in building the first meeting-house,—in particular, some work connected with the tower and turret. He and Andrewes built the first

bridge over the Quinnipiac. His business was not limited to the New Haven plantation. You should add that his enterprising spirit led him to take a deep practical interest in the project of establishing a colony at Delaware Bay.

Though, as a recent writer remarks, "there was a woful shrinkage of estate in those days," though there were pervasive business disasters and impoverishing wars, and though our public-spirited forefather was consumingly devoted to civic and military service, yet, beginning as we suppose empty-handed, he came to be numbered with the wealthy.

It is scarcely necessary to say that this man worshiped and served the Almighty Lord, and was for some forty-five years, a member of the church which assembles under this roof. His burial, in 1685, was on the Green, a few yards from this spot, where Joanna his wife had been interred seven years previously. The grave-stones of both may be seen in the old cemetery.

OFFICIAL CAREER AND PUBLIC SERVICES.

Turn we now, Mr. President and worthy kinsmen, to the official career and the public services of Thomas Munson. We give attention to a number of points in his wide and rich experience as a committee-man, and then take up the honorable story of his executive, judicial, legislative and military career.

Committee-man.

The term committee (pardon this parenthesis) ordinarily indicates a number of men who are appointed by a larger body to examine into some particular matter or

manage some specific affair ; this one thing done, it ceases. Its limitation is a peculiarity. *

Munson was appointed by government to appraise property ; I have noted ten estates of which he
Appraiser. was an appraiser. In 1670 he was member of a colonial committee "to set an appraisement upon the land belonging to the several plantations."

He was often appointed (with others) to "view" objects and conditions. Thus he viewed¹ the "way to the Plaines" where a highway was to be located ; he viewed² the Quinnipiac to select a site for a bridge ; he
Inspector. inspected³ the equipment of the cavalry ; he inspected the West Bridge⁴ and the historic Neck Bridge⁵ which, four years later, afforded refuge to Goffe and Whalley when nearly overtaken by King Charles's emissaries ; he inspected the condition of the first meeting-house eight times within twenty-one years,⁶—the last time using his influence decisively, it would appear, in favor of building a new house instead of multiplying repairs upon the old. At an uncertain date, "The Townes men Agreed to goe to all the Inhabitance [of the] Towne and farmes to see how the children are educate in reading the word of God : Lievtenant Munson and J—— Chidsey for the square of the Towne," etc.

Munson was appointed (with others) to supervise work for the public : to fence vacant lots ;⁷ to construct a chest in the meeting-house "to putt the pikes in to keepe them from warping ;"⁸ "to mend y^e ladder" by which
Supervisor. a sentinel on "dayes of publique meeting" went up to take his stand upon the meeting-house ;⁹ to provide a suitable building for "a Colony Schoole (for teaching of

¹ 1642. ² 1646. ³ Alone ; 1656. ⁴ 1656. ⁵ 1651 and 1657.

⁶ 1647, 1648—Jan. and July, 1659, 1662—Apr. and Aug., 1665, 1668.

⁷ 1641. ⁸ 1645. ⁹ 1649.

latine, Greeke, & Hebrew);”¹ to execute an order “that the market place be forth-with cleared & the wood carryed to the watch-howse & there piled for the vse & succour of the watch in cold weather.”² In 1658 a scheme six years old had become so interesting that Thomas Munson and three others were chosen to consider whether “ye beavour pond brooke can be brought to the Towne, that the mill might be set up here;” this committee reported to another plenipotentiary committee of which Munson was a member, and the bold work was undertaken. In the records there is an abstract of a speech upon this subject by our ancestor, in which he specifies “the great dam,” “y^e great trench,” and the “pen-stocke” of which there is mention twenty years later.

This man, who was so rich in the faculty of judgment, was a member of committees to make final determinations. In two or more cases he was chosen as arbiter.³ He was selected (with others) to lay out roads, as “the ^{Determiner.} highway from Woodbury to Pawgasuck [i. e. Derby] to the most convenient place for a ferry;”⁴ and also the conspicuous East Haven thoroughfare, agreeably to this record under date of 1677: “Capt. Munson informed y^e Towne, that himselfe Capt. Rosewell & John Cooper seneor who was appointed by y^e Towne had now stated out and settled a highway from y^e ferry unto y^e farmes at y^e iron works.” He was chosen to establish the boundaries of towns. Thus, in 1671, the General Court “appoints L^{nt} Thomas Munson to runn the depth of the bownds of Brandford and Guilford to the northwards, according to their grant.” In 1674 the Lieutenant assisted in establishing the “diuideing bownds” between New Haven and Branford; and in 1675 he was on a committee “to see to the settlement of both the

¹ 1660.² 1645.³ 1649, 1654.⁴ 1675.

bownds and distribution of lands" in the new plantation of Derby. In 1679 "The Town did appoint Mr. W^m Jones, Tho: Munson & John Cooper sencor theyer comittee to state out y^e Indians Land on y^e east side."

Our judicious ancestor served on committees whose duties were diplomatic,—as, e. g., to persuade W^m Andrewes "not to give up keeping the ordinarie;"¹ to

Diplomatist. treat with Fowler concerning the sale of his interest in the mill;² to treat with Christopher

Todd concerning "y^e removeall of y^e mills on this side nearer y^e rocke & soe to make y^m breast mills;"³ "to treat with the Indians about some matters of complaint, as, planting where they ought not," "killing of hoggs, and stealing pease;"⁴ and again, pending the inquiry "whether a village might be settled neare the black Rock"—a notable promontory on the east side of the harbor and at the north end of The Cove—the site of a fort in the Revolutionary days,—“Brother Andrewes and Bro: Munson were desired to Treat with the Indians about the exchange of some Land.”⁵ One other item: within two or three years after the English founded New Haven, some of the colonists purchased large tracts of land on both sides of the Delaware: but the hostility of the Swedes and the Dutch spoiled their attempts at trade and settlement. In 1654 there was a revival of the Delaware movement, and a committee was constituted, including Munson, “to whom,” says the record, “any that are willing to goe may rapaire to be taken notice of.” Early in the next year, between fifty and sixty men had found leaders of nerve and enterprise in Munson and Cooper, and attempted very resolutely to establish plantations at Delaware Bay, with a view to erecting eventually a separate common-

¹ 1648.² 1653.³ 1671.⁴ 1654.⁵ 1660.

wealth. The records of the General Court for 1655 contain the petition of the adventurers, with the conclusion, namely: "The Court returned, That having read and considered . . . some propositions presented by Thomas Munson and John Cooper, of New Haven, in the name and behalfe of sundrie persons of this jurisdiction and elsewhere, appearing as undertaker for the first planting of Delaware, . . . they are willing . . . to grant libertie to one or both of those magistrates mentioned to goe alonge with them. . . . And they purpose when God shall so enlarge the English plantations in Delaware as that they shall grow the greater part of the jurisdiction . . . the gouernor may be one yeare in one part and the next yeare in another," &c. Samuel Eaton, Francis Newman and Stephen Goodyear were disposed to have a hand in this high enterprise; but it was presently reported that three ships had "come to the Sweeds," difficulties loomed up formidably, and the great and superb project took its place with the splendid visions of Dante and Milton.

Executive.

It is time to direct attention to our pioneer's record as an executive officer, elected for lengthened periods of service. The modest though at that time important and respectable position of viewer of fences¹ need not detain us. Our Lieutenant was made plantation-commissary when that office was created at the beginning of King Philip's war.² He was chosen treasurer of the town for the unexpired term of Benjamin Linge.³ Three years he was elected lister or assessor.⁴ He served as Townsman

¹ 1641, 1644, 1660, 1663, 1667. ² 1675. ³ 1669. ⁴ 1649, 1663, 1673.

Townsman. thirteen years,¹ first in 1656 and last in 1683; four years he was at the head of the board. It devolved upon him and his associates to take a census of the Quinnipiac Indians and of the acres of land allotted to them;² to change the location of the ferry to "the Red Rocke;"³ to encourage the erection of a village for the inhabitants at Stony River and South End (East Haven);⁴ to resurrect and revivify the Hopkins Grammar School⁵

(Hopkins Grammar School.) —the Captain, as chief of the Townsmen, making a speech and Deputy-Governor Jones following; to consider whether health requires that burials upon The Green should cease,⁶—though it was yet one hundred and thirty-eight years before the place of burial was changed;⁷ to consider, again, whether the burying-place—"about 20 rod square"—ought not to "be fenced about and kept in a comely manner,"—but the matter had hindrance until 1690, when an order was issued that the place of burial "be fenced with a stone wall . . . in Ovall forme."

As a townsman Capt. Munson was desired⁸ (with others) to revise the report of a former committee on the *third division* of common-land, "and allsoe to endeavor to purchase of y^e Indians such lands as are yet unpurchased." This division took place in 1680; the first and second had occurred in 1640.

The call to public meetings—religious, military and civic—during forty-three years, was by a drum beaten in the turret on the meeting-house, and often about some of the streets. The drummer was instructed "to observe y^e winde & beat so that y^e whole towne

(Speech on the Bell.)
¹ 1656, 1657, 1658, 1662, 1663 (First), 1668, 1675, 1676 (First), 1677, 1678 (First), 1681, 1682, 1683 (First). This office was known later as that of select-man.
² 1682. ³ 1668. ⁴ 1679. ⁵ 1677.

⁶ 1659. ⁷ 1797: stones removed, 1821. ⁸ 1678.

may heare." In 1681, more than two centuries ago, a bell was brought into the harbor,—of which the public records take notice as follows: "Capt. Thomas Munson on of y^e townsmen declared y^e occasion of this meeting was to Consider y^e buysines of y^e bell for y^e Townes use which was spoken of the last Towne meeting (which meeting was in April last) at which y^e Townsmen were desyred to Consider y^e matter how y^e bell might suit y^e Townes occasions and to veiue y^e Terrett of y^e meeting house, and to make returne to y^e Towne of theyer apprehensions in y^e Case: Now they had veiued the s^d Terrett and doe judg y^e place may be fitted to hang it in for y^e use of y^e Towne, and allsoe being informed that y^e owner of y^e bell had sent to have it brought to ye Bay¹ in Joseph Allsupps vessell, and that y^e sayd Joseph had undertaken that y^e Bell should yet stay untill another returne, and it having Lyen soe long it would not be hansom for y^e Town to put it of, and therefore it wer necessary that now y^e Towne would Consider whether they will have it or not and how to raise y^e pay for it which will bee fourteen pound in money." It was voted that the bell be purchased, and that the townsmen have it properly hanged for use.

In 1678 our Captain had a hand *ex officio* in the delicate task of seating the Meeting-house. The men were to occupy one side of the house and the women the other, while the assignment of places to individuals was to have respect to civic dignity, military rank, age, wealth, social value, and so on. Mr. Jones reported that the committee had finished seating the men "and, had begun y^e seating of women but found some difiiculty in that matter." Ah yes,—that beautiful absence of "dificulty" in the seating of men! The

(Seating the
Meeting-
House.

¹ Massachusetts.

report alleged some "want of Roome," with reference to which "Divers desyred that y^e women might be seated as farr as seats would reach:" but it was cautiously replied "that y^e comitte had some reasons that were not meet to mention at this time." The ex-Deputy-Governor, who had risked his neck to defend Goffe and Whalley against Charles II., was mindful that a bird of the air would repeat every word of the discussion to the Hannahs and Elizabeths and Temperances; and the Townsman and Soldier who had faced Pequots, hostile New Yorkers under Andross, the embattled Dutch, and the terrible conspiracy under King Philip, could not forget that every whisper in the meeting would be telephoned to the "pink and white tyrants" named Joanna and Rebecca and Charity and Prudence: and Jones and Munson resolved upon a masterly discretion.

Judicial.

We pass now to Thomas Munson's judicial career.

At the age of fifty-one he was elected to the Plantation Court, a tribunal which was convened monthly "to hear and determine inferiour causes,"—if "Civill," "in valew not exceeding twenty Pounds;" if "Criminall," Plantation Court. "when the punishment by Scripture Light, exceeds not stocking, and whipping," or "when the fine exceeds not five Pounds." The "fitt and able men" chosen for this service are styled "the ordinary judges." Those elected in 1662 were "Mr. John Davenport, Jun., Leiftenant John Nash, Ensigne Thomas Munson, and James Bishop." They were all twice re-elected, and they held office until Charles II. united the New Haven and Connecticut colonies.

It was not until after the Union that trial by jury was instituted. Lieut. Munson was a member of the first jury impanelled at New Haven,¹ and he was its fore-
First Jury. man. This was in October. He was also fore-
 man of the juries in January and February following.

In 1666 the Lieutenant was designated as supernumerary Commissioner, to perform duty as a member of the monthly court, in a contingency.

Again, our pioneer was a member for many years of the supreme Court of Appeals, in that period, to wit, the General Court for the Jurisdiction,—at first that of New Haven colony, and after the Union, that of Con-
Court of Appeals. necticut. One of the six general functions of this high court, in the New Haven colony, was thus stated: "To hear and determine all causes, whether Civil or Criminall, w^{ch} by appeal or complaint shall be orderly brought unto them, either from any inferior Court, or from any of the Plantations." In Connecticut colony a similar custom was in force.²

Legislative.

Let us now advance to contemplate Munson's career as a legislator. •

In 1662 and 1663 he was elected "third man" or substitute deputy for four sessions of the General Court of New Haven colony, and at the third session he had occasion to
New Haven General Court. take his seat and act. In 1664 he was elected deputy for two sessions of the same body. The next year,—it will be remembered that there was a great deal of contention between the colonies in regard to a union,—Connecticut invited New Haven to send deputies to a General Assembly to be holden on the 15th

¹ 1665.

² 1683.

of March. "After much debate," says the record, "it was thought best to send," and Lieut. Thomas Munson and John Cooper were chosen to represent the community. That meeting of the Assembly was "put by," and a summons to another for April 20th being issued, "the former deputies declaring themselves not willing to goe," there was a new choice, though a minority objected to sending. There is no doubt that the unwritten history connected with these events would be very entertaining if we could recover it. Lieut. Munson was chosen "third man" for the October session of 1665, and he was elected to the same situation in 1668 and 1684.

In 1666 he was elected deputy to the General Assembly, and he served in this capacity twenty-four sessions, a very impressive testimony to the extraordinary esteem in which his legislative qualifications were held. It appears, therefore, that he represented New Haven in the colonial legislatures twenty-seven sessions. He was in the Assembly nineteen consecutive sessions, with one exception during King Philip's war when he was engrossed with military duties. The town was represented by two persons each session. During thirteen years, 1669–1682, there were fifty-six individual elections of deputies, twenty-three of which fell to Munson and thirty-three to seven other men,—the former being elected more times than any three of his competitors,—while in every instance except one he was at the head of the delegation,—evinced his easy preëminence among the sterling citizens who filled this office in his time.

Be it observed that legislation in the age of Pioneer Munson was something else than atomizing rose-water. It was the mighty task of sagacious statesmen. Not theirs the vocation to conserve and administer a ready-made

system. They had need to be colossal inventors in the sphere of government, for they were founders of new, unique, exemplary institutions. Liberty regulated by law was the beneficent object to be attained. To originate and elaborate a fabric of self-government—an expression of intelligence, wisdom and virtue, and to be maintained by intelligence, wisdom and virtue,—this, conducted in allegiance to the divine government, was the sublime task assumed by the colonial legislators. And this work, you should remark, might not be done at leisure, but amidst diversions and embarrassments springing from other unfriendly and often hostile communities,—the aborigines, the English and again the Dutch of New York, the Rhode Islanders, and we may as well add, (softly,) the English Crown.

Military.

There remains to be considered the military career of our versatile and indefatigable forefather.

A few explanations may be premised. The earlier musket¹ was a match-lock; “four fathom of match” was the allowance for each, and those performing guard-duty during the time of meeting on the Lord’s-Days, were to “have their matches lighted.” These muskets gave way gradually to flint-locks; five or six good flints fitted to each of these were the allowance. Pikes fourteen feet long were used by the infantry, and half-pikes, ten feet long, were used by “dragoones,” *i. e.*, soldiers trained to perform duty either as infantry or cavalry. One in five was provided with this weapon.² The artillery were also drilled in its use. Every family was to furnish itself with a coat

¹ 1643.

² In Connecticut Colony, 1666.

of canvas "quilted with cotton woole," to serve as a "defence against Indian arrowes." The inspection of arms took place "at the meeting-house."¹

The "trained band," mentioned as early as April, 1640, included every male from sixteen to sixty years of age,² and comprised at first four squadrons, with four sergeants. Each man was equipped with a gun and a sword.³ There were at least six "traynings" every year. The "watch" was set by a sergeant "one hour after sunset,"⁴ and each of three pairs patrolled by turns. An alarm was sounded⁵ by a discharge of arms, with a cry of "Fire! fire!" or "Arme! arme!" according to the nature of the danger; the beating of the drum was added. One-fourth of the "trayned band"⁶ (and in times of special peril, all⁷) were to come to public worship "with their armes Compleat;" others, six only exempted, "are to bring their swords."⁸ While one sentinel stood on the meeting-house, another stood at the door, and two patrols walked the streets.⁷

In August, 1642, "bro: Mounson" was chosen Sergeant of the "Trayned Band," an office ranking perhaps with that of major in our late war. For nineteen years he is called by this title, and very busy years they must have been, with the trainings, the setting of night-watches, and attending to the guard on days of public meetings, and to the armed contingent among the worshipers,—to which were added special proceedings at frequent periods when dangers threatened. That his services as an officer were appreciated is evinced by a record under date of Sept. 10, 1649: "The Gouverner Informed the Court that Sarjant Munson is aboute goeing To Connecticote, to staye this winter: therefore the Court

¹ 1649. ² 1644. ³ 1644. ⁴ 1643. ⁵ 1640. ⁶ 1644. ⁷ June, 1644.

⁸ 1640. ⁹ 1653.

maye Consider whether it be safe for y^e towne to lett him goe: . . . the Court thought it not fitt that he should now goe: but desired the Gouverner to Informe them at Connecticote whom it Concernes, that it is not his neglect: but the Towne hinders him for publique respects."

At some court,¹ there was complaint of the Sergeant's "neglecting to give out the bills . . . in season, . . . whereby the watch could not be full one night." A fine of 6^s: 8^d: was ordered; but it was subsequently remitted. He was once² complained of for "taking away 3 hands fro^m traynings to goe fetch hay." Some one had broken a promise to attend to it "while he was gonn to Moheigen." The motive was imperious,—it was the only chance, even with the help of "Canowes,"—but "he was fyned 2^s each person." Again³ he was accused of taking some men from the company "upon A trayning day," and "said he would Answer it." He replied that "the thing was not True." The Pastor's "sellar" was to be "stoned," and he desired the Sergeant to "gitt helpe & Come & under-sett the house," on a certain day. "That will be training day," replied the officer. But Mr. Davenport said, "lett him gett men and he would freely paye the fine if the towne required it." The Sergeant alleged, moreover, that "he came not at the Company that morning." After some testimony was offered, "The Court told Sarient Munson that it seemed there was some mistake in the buisenes." These proceedings were in the "Particular Court." In the General Court, a month later,⁴ the Governor called on any who could establish the charge against the officer, "to speake; if not that then he may be Cleared & men be more wary how they expresse themselves: but none spake to Charge him but rather To Cleare him & so it was past by." A malcontent charged the Sergeant with "partial-

¹ 1649.² 1646.³ 1648.⁴ 1649.

litie "' in omitting to present the names of some members of his squadron who had come late to public worship and of others who "brought not their Armes." As a result of the examination, the accuser "was Tould he had not Carried it well: he should not have lett it passe till he was Complained of himselfe, and then in his distemper declare it: . . . but he said he was sorry for it: Seriant Munson was told y^t the Court Judged hime faithful in his Trust."

In 1654, His Highness, Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of England, Scotland and Ireland, desired the New England colonies to unite in an expedition against the "Dutch on Hudsons River," in reinforcement of his warfare against Holland. The New Haven colony raised a force, of which Munson was chosen first Sergeant; but before the levy got under way, news came that peace had been concluded.

When an "Artillary Company" was organized in 1645, our Sergeant was constituted a sergeant of that company, though without vacating his office in the Trained (Artillery.) Band. He appears to have retained his connection with the artillery three years. Of the six "great guns" mentioned, three were located near the Meeting-house and three at the water-side.²

When a small Troope was raised in 1656, Thomas Munson was one of those who volunteered for that (Troope.) form of service. The organization existed seven years.

In 1661 Sergeant Munson, with some misgiving, accepted the office of Ensign or color-bearer. After two years he desired to be released from the position, alleging his insufficiency, "especially in windy weather." At the end of the third year, complaint was made that
Ensign.

¹ 1643.² How early, the writer cannot say.

the colors did not appear in the company. The Ensign reminded the public of his resignation, whereupon a word of reproof was murmured and the Ensign was immediately promoted to the office of Lieutenant.¹

This office was perhaps equivalent in rank to that of colonel in our late war. Munson served as Lieutenant twelve years. In 1673, while England and Holland were

Lieutenant. at war, the Dutch re-captured New York from the English. Connecticut colony took alarm,

and appointed a "Grand Committee" for defence, with full power to commission officers, and to press men, horses,

(Grand Committee.) ships, arms, ammunition and provisions, and, in a word, to direct military proceedings in the best way they can. Munson was a member of this

committee. It was ordered, moreover, that 500 dragoons be raised, and that if any forces should be sent out of New Haven County for the relief of another county, Munson should be Lieutenant of the same. Four days later the Grand Committee order that each dragoon have a horse, a sword, a musket, and a half-pike, and that Munson be Lieutenant of those raised in New Haven County. Three months and a half later,² the General Court resolves to send forth forces, by sea and land, against New York, and institutes "a standing Councill of Warr" with full power, and of this Council the Lieutenant was a member. Some forces sailed to the east end of Long Island and expelled the enemy from that region; but the "eminent dangers of warr" were mainly averted until peace was proclaimed.

We come now to the period of King Philip's war, just one hundred years before the war of the Revolution. We

(King Philip's War.) have only an occasional glimpse of Lieut. Munson's movements in this gloomy and horrid con-

¹ 1664.

² Nov. 26, 1673.

test with the barbarians; for the records are too meagre and indefinite.

July 2nd, 1675, a public meeting was "suddenly" called on receiving news that Philip, "a bloody man," had assaulted "seacunck" and "swansy" in Plymouth colony, while there had also been disturbance "in the Narragancett Country." Some houses had been burned, about thirty English slain, and Philip's savages were "engaging the Indians rownd about by sending locks of some English they haue slayne, from one place to another." The colony immediately took up arms. The forces raised at New Haven and other towns on the shore marched towards New London and Stonington. Our Lieutenant was of this army.

But the march was interrupted at Saybrook fort by tidings of the approach of another foe. The odious Andross, recently appointed governor of New York, was behaving in his office like a great, saucy, conscienceless boy whose chief ambition was to act the bully. He claimed and protested that his government extended to the Connecticut river. His bad spirit and his threatening messages made the Connecticut colony suspicious of him, even when, as on this occasion, he loudly professed the most innocent and benevolent intentions. With three vessels and a military force he arrived off Saybrook, July 8th,—alleging that his purpose was to defend the English colonists from the hostile savages; but a memorandum of his, found in the Secretary's Office fourteen years later, acknowledged that he went to the mouth of the Connecticut to take possession by surprise, "but was prevented by the opposition of two companies of men then lodged there ready to go out against the Indians." The proceedings of Andross in asserting his claims, and of the soldier-colonists in denying and combating them, were uncom-

monly picturesque. After five or six days Andross set sail, and Capt. Bull was instructed, July 16th, "to leaue Lnt. Munson to comand at Saybrooke wth some forces for the security of that place," while he himself should march "with as many forces as can be spared," towards New London and Stonington, to secure the frontier against the Indians.

In August the Indians on the Connecticut, above Northampton, began to evince hostility; in the latter part of the month, the Norwottogs at Hadley assaulted the plantations there. Major Treat marched from Connecticut with an army, August 31st, his route to Northampton being *via* Westfield.

September 19th, the following commission was issued to our gallant ancestor:

"To Thomas Munson, L^{nt}.

"These are in his Ma^{ties} Name to will and require you to take under your conduct the forces that now com from the County of New Haven; and them you are forthwith to lead up to Norwottock, and from thence up the River to our army, with whom you are to joyne in the defence of those plantations up the River; and you are to kill and destroy all such Indian enemies as shall assault you or the sayd plantations," etc. Norwottock (now Hadley) was the headquarters of the colonial army. There was a fort in the bend of the river at that point. Already Northfield and Deerfield had fallen before the enemy, and "the flower of Essex" had been massacred at Bloody Brook.

We can seldom individualize our ancestor amidst the smoke, the confusion, the multiform obscuration of Philip's war. Fifteen days later, the Agawams, under Sachem Wequogan, hitherto friendly, received two hundred and seventy of Philip's Indians, designing the next day,

October 5th, to burn Springfield. Toto, a Windsor Indian, discovered their secret, and during the night the news was sent by a swift horseman to Springfield and thence to Westfield and Hadley. The inhabitants of the doomed town betook themselves to the garrisons, and the six hundred warriors burned thirty-three houses and twenty-five barns and the mill. Treat's army, of which Munson's command formed a part, was at Westfield when Toto's disclosure was brought to that point, and it immediately marched for Springfield. Hubbard, in his *Indian Wars*, observes: "No doubt the whole town had been totally destroyed, but that a Report of the Plot being carried about over night, Major Treat came from Westfield time enough in a Manner for the Rescue, but wanting Boats to transport his Men, could not do so much Good as he desired." "He arrived there," however, says an eminent student of colonial history,¹ "in time to save the lives of the inhabitants, and a part of the town from the flames."

Five days after the Lieutenant was commissioned to conduct the New-Haven County dragoons to the seat of war, the town of New Haven appointed a committee, including Munson, "to erect some fortification at the meeting-house," and, if deemed best, elsewhere. After the burning of Springfield, it was ordered, agreeably to the suggestion of the committee, that some houses be fortified, that at the four angles of the town-square superior fortifications be erected, and that there be a line of pallisadoes all about the town-square; each inhabitant was required to build four rods of this stockade. It was also ordered that all brush and underwood within half a mile of the pallisadoes be cut down and cleared away, that the shelter they afforded might not assist

¹ J. Hammond Trumbull, LL.D.

the Indians "to creep in a skulking manner neare y^e Towne."¹

It should be minded that Munson was a Townsman during these dark and bloody years, and thus most intimately related to all local proceedings connected with the war.

February 25th, 1676, Lieut. Munson was "appoynted Captain of N. Haven County souldiers, and commissioned accordingly." This was as high rank as had been attained by any citizen of New Haven, (about equivalent to general in our time,) and it remained the highest for seven or eight years longer.² May 15th, the General Court, in view of the strength of the enemy and the outrages they were committing, instituted "a standing army" of which "Captⁿ Tho: Munson was chosen Captⁿ for N. Haven County."

Portrait and Character.

We have now sampled the acts and events in Captain Munson's life as fully as our limitations permit. Is not his career a panorama which his posterity may contemplate with just pleasure and rational pride? James I., Charles I., Cromwell, Charles II., were the British sovereigns in his day: what favorite was elevated to a barony, an earldom or a dukedom, who was so rich in manly worth, whose essential nobility shone with so much lustre, whose public services were so various, so valuable and so monumental? Let every heart admire him, every lip

¹ The next March—"It was ordered that noe person shall plant any Indian corne within two rod of the stockaded line;" and, also, "y^t noe Indian bee suffered to com into y^e Towne to see the fortifications or take notis of any of our actings and motions."

² 1683.

praise him, every son and daughter emulate his resplendent example.

O that we had a portrait of him ! Well, I will paint one reflecting my conception of him. A light-complexioned man, with blue eyes and brown hair ; his nose straight and prominent ; in person, larger and taller than the average man, probably ; erect, methodical, prompt and dignified, as became his soldierly profession ; courtly, as became his judicial and legislative associations.

Passing from the outward appearance,—he was a man of irrepressible aspiration ; he was a man of superior intelligence,—and his fine autograph indicates cultivation ; he was a man of leonine courage ; a man of tireless energy ; a man whose judgment was preëminent,—the *solitaire* of his faculties ; a man whose versatility was wonderful,—perhaps not less exceptional than his judgment ; his integrity, so far as appears, was whiteness and brightness ; and, in fine, his place was on the side of the All-wise and the All-holy.

What remains ? This beautiful, historic Green is fretted with our worthy's footsteps as multitudinously as the aisles of autumnal forests with fallen leaves. Hundreds of times he walked hither with stately step to the monthly courts and the general courts for the plantation and the jurisdiction ; hundreds of times has he come with martial step to attend train-band, artillery and cavalry exercises ; 1500 times has he marched hither at evening to set the nightly watch ; 4000 times has he come over this ground, with a semi-devout aspect, to attend the Wednesday lecture ; 9000 times he has walked reverently, yet with something of soldierly energy, precision and stateliness in his gait, to the public worship on the Lord's-days. I cannot estimate his visits to this Green at fewer than 40,000.

His monument? New Haven is his monument, and Connecticut is his monument. There is not a stone in the foundations of this enchanting town which his hand has not touched, adjusted, embellished. Turn which way you will, go which way you will, you have only to brush off the dust and rub off the lichens to find "*MUNSON fecit.*"

But you, my dear kinsmen, are the living monument of Thomas Munson. It may be said with candor and sobriety that the descendants of this man exhibit a very high average of ability, uprightness, thrift and respectability. And you have made his name creditably known in your several residences from Hudson's Bay to the Gulf of Mexico and from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Aye, more: here and there across the nation you have caused his name to be inscribed in characters which are truly monumental, as in the case of Munson Street and Munson Park in this city; Munson's Hill in Virginia—covered with history six fathoms deep; Munson Hill—a post-village in Ohio; Munsonville in New Hampshire, Munsonville in New York, Munson's Station in Pennsylvania, the township of Munson in Illinois, and the township of Munson in Nebraska.

As we pass in grand review before the Captain, he will certainly contemplate very many and very much with approbation and applause; but no member of the procession will have merit enough, I had almost said half enough merit, to entitle him to measure arms with our greatest soldier and ablest civilian, Thomas the First.

POSTERITY OF THOMAS MUNSON.

The scope of this discourse includes a few glimpses of Thomas Munson's posterity.

His only son Samuel was by trade a shoemaker, with which that of a tanner was probably combined. He also owned and cultivated farming lands. His military rank was that of Ensign. Early in 1670 he joined with
His Son
Samuel. John Mosse, John Brockitt, Nathaniel Merriman, and twenty-two other New Haveners, in the founding of Wallingford, ten miles north-north-easterly. He was nearly twenty-seven, the age at which his father settled in New Haven. His daughter and eldest son had been born before his removal; the next five sons were born during the eleven years of his residence in Wallingford, notwithstanding which the elder three were born in New Haven, and only Joseph and Stephen in Wallingford; Caleb, and two younger sons who have no posterity, were born after the return to New Haven in 1681. Ens. Samuel, if we may trust the records, was the first schoolmaster at Wallingford;¹ he was for a time the public drummer; his residence during the early years was the place of public worship, for which some compensation was rendered. He was on the important committee to determine the rules for the allotment of the lands,² which were at first all common. At the age of thirty he was elected one of the Townsmen, and he was chosen to the same office the following year and also the last two years he was in Wallingford.³ One year he was chosen leather-sealer,⁴ another treasurer,⁵ two years auditor,⁶ two years recorder of lands,⁷ and five years assessor.⁸ In 1681, at the age of

¹ 1679. ² 1672. ³ 1673, 1674, 1680, 1681. ⁴ 1678. ⁵ 1680. ⁶ 1676?
 1679. ⁷ 1679, 1681. ⁸ 1677-1681.

thirty-eight, he was chosen recorder, assessor and townsman, indicating that had he remained in Wallingford he would have been employed very extensively in public service. The first year of Philip's war, he was commissioned Ensign of the Wallingford Trained Band; next month the colonial Council appointed him and another "to sign bills:" and in March following, he and another wrote a letter to the Council in respect to "garrison-houses, and watches and wardes." In 1679 "The Towne made Choyce of Eñ Sam^l Munson & Eliasaph Preston to goe up to the Hon^{le} Gournier . . . to inquire y^e Reason why they are deprived of Comission maiestraycy among them." After his return to New Haven, he was chosen fence-viewer,¹ constable,² and assessor;³ and during five years, probably ten, beginning with 1683, he and his brother-in-law, Joseph Tuttle, were elected searchers and sealers of leather. For one year, and apparently longer—not unlikely three years, our Ensign was Rector of the Hopkins Grammar School. He died⁴ before he was fifty, surviving his father less than eight years. (The Captain's age was seventy-three.) We may well lament the premature decease of our second ancestor, whose promise and whose performance also had been so admirable. Let it be distinctly recognized, cousins, recognized with veneration, that Ensign Samuel was the common ancestor of all the descendants of Capt. Thomas who bear the Munson name.

We are now to glance at the footprints of seven sons of the Ensign—grandsons of the Captain. Thomas, John, Theophilus and Stephen dwelt in New Haven; Samuel, Joseph and Caleb in Wallingford. It may be remarked

¹ 1686.² 1692.³ 1692.

⁴ Between Dec. 26, 1692, when he was elected constable, and March 2, 1693, when the inventory of his estate was dated.

that all these brothers, whatever their trades or other employments, had ample possessions in land.

1. Samuel, of Wallingford, Town Clerk and Recorder thirty-nine years.¹ I have examined several thousand pages in his handwriting. In conveyances his vocation is said to be that of "Planter." His military title, Grandson Samuel. like that of his father, was Ensign. He served as treasurer, auditor, school-committee, four years, lister, four years, and selectman, six years. He was also chosen to six minor offices, involving thirteen years of service. There is record of yet another public appointment, in September, 1704: "The town chose Samuell Monson to look after the yong people at the lore eand of the meting house." His age at death was seventy-two.

2. Thomas, of New Haven. He was fourteen years old at the death of the Captain, and was the only grand-child who participated in the distribution of the old gentleman's estate. This partiality was most Grandson Thomas. likely out of respect to his name. To him were given his grandfather's "armes & am̄nition," his tools, a colt, "6 acres of land in the . . . Governors quarter, & y^t parcell of meadow lying att the red banke," with some other things. According to the designation in deeds, Thomas was by vocation a "husbandman." He was chosen to a minor office at the age of twenty, and to another three years later, to which he was three times re-elected; but his official career was inconspicuous. At the age of twenty-eight² he sold his place, the homestead of his father and grandfather, on Grove and Temple streets, to his brother John, and then or presently removed to lands on the First and Second Brooks, and on Sacket's Brook. This farm, lying on the west side of the

¹ 1711-1740.² 1709.

Quinnipiac, was a landmark much employed in describing places in that region. Thomas bought three and one-half acres, bounded easterly on Sacket's brook, of Jonathan Edwards, that renowned metaphysician and divine whom Robert Hall declared to be "the greatest of the sons of men." In 1716, when the project of locating Yale College in New Haven was under contemplation, a number of citizens thought to encourage the enterprise by donating forty acres of land to its treasury; Thomas gave two acres and Theophilus one. This "Colledge lott" was "about half a mile Northerly of Thomas³ Munsons," and a Wallingford record describes Munson as "of Newhaven north village." There are indications in some of his conveyances that Thomas³ was a humorous man. He lived to the age of seventy-five.

3. Capt. John, of New Haven, who, taken all in all—his versatility, the variety of his activities and achievements, and the number, value and eminence of his public services

being regarded,—possibly excels any other de-

Grandson
John.

scendant of Thomas Munson. In documents, for

twenty years, he is called a "maultster" or "malster;" and from 1722, a "miller." In 1716, during the reign of George I., he bought a new corn-mill, located on Beaver-Pond Brook; at a later period it had a bolting department. Ten years later, he and others built a saw-mill "upon the West River above Sperrys farme;" he owned at least a quarter interest. Nine years later, he bought a one-third interest in Todd's mill, a lineal descendant of the first mill in New Haven: it was on Mill river, opposite Mill-Rock, and at this period, a "Bake-house" was a part of the property. When he became a miller, he sold his place on Grove and Temple streets to Theophilus, and resided eastward of the West-Rock, where his business was. He had a "malt-house" *there*

also. In 1712, he obtained a grant of land for a wharf. He was key-keeper, grand-juror, constable, two years, collector, two years, leather-sealer, six years, assessor, two years, Townsman, nine years, Deputy to the General Assembly, ten sessions. At the age of thirty-six¹ he had won the title of Captain, and from that date for more than ten years he was annually elected Moderator for all the town meetings of the year. This fact has a unique and brilliant look. Capt. John was chosen the first Steward of Yale College, an office which he filled three years.² The first attempt to establish regular communication between New Haven and Hartford was in 1717, when the General Assembly gave Capt. John the exclusive right of transporting persons and goods between the two places for seven years. This franchise was granted in consideration of his having been at "the cost and charge to set up a waggon to pass and transport passengers and goods." "On the first Monday of every month, excepting December, January, February, and March," he was to "set forth with the said waggon from New Haven, and with all convenient despatch drive up to Hartford, and thence in the same week return to New Haven." There was a fine of forty shillings for infringing on Munson's privilege. This stage is believed to have run at intervals of two weeks,—doing better than the statute required. It remains to add that John Munson was a Deacon of the First Church; we do not know the limits of his term of service, but he was in office in October, 1742, and December, 1748. The last record which mentions him as living is February 6, 1749; he was then seventy-six years of age.

4. Capt. Theophilus, of New Haven, whose prominence among the seven brothers was next to that of John. His

¹ 1709.

² 1718-1721.

dealings in real-estate were extensive, and he was decidedly successful in acquiring property. By trade he was a "locksmith." He held four minor offices by fifteen elections. He was also constable, collector and treasurer, tithingman, three years, lister, three years, and thirty-three times at least he was elected sealer of weights and measures. He was Townsman eight years, and Deputy to the General Assembly three sessions. In 1712 he was on a town-committee to assist in laying out the undivided land, and nine years later was on another committee to prepare plans for the sixth division. He and five others, in 1717, were granted an area of "the flats" eight rods wide, "beginning at the end of the highway leading down by Capt. Prouts to the water side: provided that the sd Grantees build a wharfe forty Rods long . . . and twenty foots wide . . . within eight years." We note as a curiosity that the price of five acres purchased by Theophilus, in 1708, was a "neagro woman Called Hagur," together with five pounds, twelve shillings. This prosperous man resided forty-five years on College street, at the corner of Wall, where Prest. Dwight resides, and he died at the age of seventy-two.

5. Ens. Joseph, of Wallingford,—by trade a "joyner." He occupied two inferior offices by six elections. He was also grand-juror, an assessor three years, and a Townsman in 1713. His residence is located by a record made in 1716: "The lower end of the town¹ begins at Joseph Munsons." He was only fifty-two years old when he died.

6. Sergt. Stephen, of New Haven,—by trade a "locksmith" and also "gunn smith." He was chosen to three minor offices by eighteen elections: he was also constable, collector, two years, assessor, two years, and a Townsman in 1731 and 1733. It is in evidence

¹ Village.

that he had a "Negro man" whom he sold. You may recall the thought of Mr. Everett: "The faults of our fathers were the faults of the age in which they lived: their virtues were their own." And we do well to ruminate on a remark of Coleridge, to wit: "A dwarf sees farther than the giant when he has the giant's shoulder to mount on." Sergt. Stephen's home for sixty-six years was at the northwest corner of Grove and State streets. He died at the age of eighty-nine. He had been blind for some years.

7. Caleb, of Wallingford,—by trade a "weaver." He was chosen grand-juror, tithingman, school-committee, and in 1743 first Selectman. At the end of the year the citizens "Voted that they would except the Select Mens Account Read to them in General without hearing the Particulars or having any further examination." This is a novel record, and highly complimentary to Caleb. The board was re-elected, with our relative at the head of it. This seventh son of the Ensign died at the age of eighty-three.

The last survivor of these seven brothers died one hundred and nineteen years ago, seven years before the Revolutionary war. The four who lived in this town were all members of the church which worships in this house: the early records of the Wallingford church are not extant.

We are nearly at the end of our tether.

In the next generation, the fourth, Solomon removed to New Jersey and Ephraim to Massachusetts. In the fifth, Obadiah the Second removed to Pennsylvania, Timothy and Caleb to Vermont, Dr. Austin, Joseph and Benjamin to New York, Hermon to Ohio, and Cornelius to the British army. In the sixth generation the migrations from Connecticut were numerous.

A letter from Munson's Hill, Va., has the following: "I have heard my grandfather say that he had heard his father¹ say that he knew New Haven when more than half the signs on business-houses bore the name of Munson." This ancient witness was forty-one years old when the battle of Bunker Hill was fought.

A Few Names.

Among deceased Munsons who have been notably prominent in business were Capt. Joseph, merchant, and Dr. Æneas, Jr., merchant and banker of New Haven; Reuben, a manufacturer of combs in New York City, and Israel, a merchant of Boston, who "was a distinguished benefactor of humane and literary institutions." Alfred, of Utica, was the first manufacturer of buhr mill-stones in this country; he engaged widely in transportation enterprises; he invested extensively and profitably in the coal-fields of Pennsylvania,—and became a millionaire. Norman C., of Boston, deserves, by the boldness of his undertakings and the greatness of his achievements, to stand at the head of our business-men. His record in the construction of railroads is an astonishment, while the filling of the Back Bay region at Boston was the greatest contract ever executed in Massachusetts. The equipment for the work embraced twenty-five miles of track, fourteen locomotives, two hundred and twenty-five cars and two steam excavators. For seventeen years he ran his trains and excavators night and day, most of the time. He became a millionaire by this contract.

A good number of our race have been educated in colleges. Yale has graduated twenty-one of our blood and name; sixteen took the academic course, and five a profes-

¹ Timothy.

sional. Among our divines was Samuel, the missionary, who laid down his life while on a tour of inquiry among the cannibals of Sumatra. The ministers in our own age, include three college-presidents, several men with the title of D. D., and other doctors of divinity unfurnished with the title. There are lawyers and judges on the roll of the family; one of them has been attorney-general of the United States and minister to England. But the Munson profession for four generations has been that of medicine. And the numerous catalogue is of respectable quality. Eneas the First, whom the elders designate as "old Dr. Munson," was probably our most distinguished professional man. He practiced medicine seventy years. When the medical department of Yale College was instituted, in 1813, he was chosen professor of *materia medica* and botany. "It is undoubtedly true," says Dr. Bronson, who is rather fond of disparagement, "it is undoubtedly true that in the matter of professional learning and scientific information, he ranked with the eminent men of his country." "Dr. Munson was a pioneer," says Dr. Ives, "in the science of Botany;" he was "unrivalled in his knowledge of indigenous *materia medica*, and in *materia medica* generally probably his superior was not to be found in Europe. . . . To Dr. Munson," he continues, "the faculty of this country were more indebted for the introduction of new articles and valuable modes of practice than to any other individual." . . . He "studied Chemistry with zeal and made many chemical experiments." For a time "he was looked upon as a master of the science, and no one in the vicinity was as well acquainted with Mineralogy. . . . He was looked up to by all his medical brethren on all subjects relating to Chemistry and Pharmacy." Thus far Prof. Ives. Prof. Silliman, sen., was accustomed, in his earlier lectures, to

speak of Dr. Munson with deference. He was above the average size, erect and dignified. Seven sessions he was deputy to the General Court. Dr. Eneas has been much celebrated as a wit and humorist. A great number of his brilliant explosives are still extant. You might perhaps search history in vain to find another so eminent in the gravest pursuits who said and did so many things which were supremely amusing. He was gathered to his fathers in 1826.

That a great number, a very surprising number, of our ancestors participated in the Revolutionary war is an embellishment of our name. Nearly all espoused the patriot-cause, though a very few remained loyal to the Crown. Some of the latter migrated to Canada. Major William Munson, of this city, shall be a sample of our noblemen in that great era. His youngest daughter, at the age of ninety-five, participates in our festivities to-day. Major William, who was a first cousin of Benedict Arnold's first wife, was a lieutenant—from November, 1775—in Arnold's expedition to Quebec. There is extant an "Accompt" of the baggage lost by our officer "att the Retreat from Quebeck the 6th of May 1776." He was in command at Dobbs Ferry when Andre was executed as a spy. He was discharged in 1783. His residence in this city was on the northeast corner of State and Fair streets. At the time of the British Invasion, in July, 1779, the house was deserted, Mrs. Munson having gone to Wallingford. Her mother, Mrs. John Hall, who lived directly opposite, on the corner of Fair and Fleet streets, went over to the Major's, Monday afternoon, July 5th, to see if there were any valuables which should be made secure. While she was on the steps a British officer came along, drew his sword, with which she feared he was about to cut her throat, clipped a string of gold beads

from her neck, and then—gallant gentleman that he was—took the silver buckles from her shoes. The next morning, presumably, as the fleet sailed away, an eighteen-pound shot, after perforating the Sabin house, passed under the sill of a window at which Mrs. Munson usually sat when sewing. The ball crossed the room and struck the back of the capacious fireplace, when its force was spent. It was conceived to have come five miles.¹ The Major had the ball replaced where it struck and fastened there. Our venerable cousin, Mrs. Grace Munson Wheeler, has many times seen her father, when visitors were present, take up the tongs and brush the soot from the ball, to show it to them. That historic missile I now hold in my hand. For thirty-three years our veteran was a Surveyor of the Customs,—his first commission bearing the autograph of both Washington and Jefferson. When LaFayette visited New Haven, more than forty years after the war,² he promptly recognized the Major and embraced him. The latter's grand-daughter, who is present with us, was then a school-girl, and she remembers going to the Franklin House and stealing an opportunity to touch the illustrious Frenchman's coat. Munson's certificate as a member of the Society of the Cincinnati was signed by Washington.

The Typical Munson.

Shall I now portray the average, the representative, the typical Munson? You reply something about a conundrum. But conundrums are sometimes solved.

He is of rather light complexion, with eyes having some degree of blueness, and hair brownish or of some related shade ; his nose is rather prominent, and pretty straight,—

¹ Probably not.

² 1824.

this, by the way, is his most characteristic feature ; in person he is seldom small, though his height, weight and form are most varied and uncertain,—not unfrequently tall, yet frequently not tall, but, as he ripens in years, exhibiting aldermanic prosperity in the equatorial regions ; a vigorous animal, enduring a great deal of hard work and surviving a good deal of abuse,—and dying at the age of seventy-three.

The typical Munson has individuality—is more like himself than like anybody else,—has withal a habit of *thinking* and of respecting his own views ; he has a liberal allotment of will-power ; he is unsatisfied unless occupying a plane above that occupied by the majority of his fellow-mortals, yet is not ambitious to soar to dizzy heights ; he is intelligent and well-informed ; he devotes himself assiduously to his vocation ; he is provident, not lavish,—spending and giving with fidelity for worthy purposes, and most likely on occasions of highest worthiness, giving bountifully ; he is decidedly practical—with little ideality,—is neither poet nor artist, nor visionary in practical affairs ; he is conservative, not in haste to exchange the tried for the untried,—yet is he sometimes inventive and adventurous ; he has a strain of humor and playfulness in his composition ; he is an upright man and a religious man—loyal to the Son of God and to the great First Cause.

Concluding Generalizations.

Of rillraff bearing our label there is extremely, infinitesimally little. Our people are respectable farmers, excellent mechanics, thriving store-keepers, sagacious merchants, enterprising and prosperous manufacturers,—and they are evermore desired by their fellow-citizens to

accept of public trusts. Those who become scholars are scholarly, and our professional men are a credit to our name. Even the Munson artist has been seen, though a *rara avis*. French, author of *Art and Artists in Connecticut*, says of Lucius, born 1796: "As a portrait painter he not only gave good promise for the future, but had already accomplished much. His pictures show good taste, and skill in drawing. He was a careful student, and his work was free and bold." He died at Turk's Island in his twenty-seventh year. We have also, in the author of *Woman in Sacred Song*, a cousin who is an accomplished composer of music, as well as a mellifluous singer.

In politics, an immense majority of our people are Republican; yet the cream of the Democratic party is Munsonian. In religion, the first four or five generations were Congregationalists, perhaps to a man; now, besides Congregationalists, we have very many Methodists, a considerable number of Episcopalians, some Baptists, some Universalists, a few Presbyterians, and others.

We justly recognize, my kinsmen, that there is nothing in our make-up for goslings like Oscar Wilde to take hold of, nothing for the "Salvation Army," nothing for socialistic disorganizers, nothing for religionless materialists; and that we go to the almshouse only for beneficence, and to the criminal court only to act as judge, jury, witness to the truth, or advocate of the cause that is just.

We none of us, my favorites, represent Thomas Munson with any completeness and accuracy; the primitive type has been modified by seven, or eight, or nine marriages; and it has been modified also by the general changes which have affected society—changes in light, in belief, in customs, in institutions, in material conditions; and it makes one's heart stand still to think of the further modifications which may take place in the next two hundred

and fifty years. But let every Munson have the clear conviction that he has an ideal in Captain Thomas which is worthy of his daily contemplation, and let him have the wisdom to find inspiration and guidance and cheer in our first father's great and bright example.

THE MUNSON RECORD

A Genealogical and Biographical Account

OF

CAPT. THOMAS MUNSON

(A Pioneer of Hartford and New Haven)

AND HIS DESCENDANTS

BY

MYRON A. MUNSON, M.A.

Two volumes, royal 8vo, pp. 1267.

CRITICAL NOTICES.

The first work on our list is the Munson Record, in two noble volumes, of more than six hundred pages each. The author, Rev. Myron A. Munson, of New Haven, Connecticut, deserves great praise for the admirable manner in which he has performed his work. . . . The book is carefully compiled. Everything illustrating the history of the family or the individual members—portraits, fac-similes of documents and records, charts, maps, gravestones and autographs, have been gathered and preserved here. The book is handsomely printed, and the illustrations are numerous and of a high order of merit. The indexes are full. We would recommend it as a model for works of the kind.

The New-England Historical and Genealogical Register
for April, 1896, p. 242.

Elaborate and praiseworthy work. . . . Much critical acumen is manifest throughout the work, a sample of which has forcibly impressed us in the foot-note on page 625, where an important error which had passed unchallenged for over one hundred and fifty years has been corrected. The illustrations . . . are of a high order. Nearly one hundred pages of carefully prepared indexes close the work. The mechanical execution . . . does credit to the Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor press. . . . It will have a large sale.

The New-York Genealogical and Biographical Record
for April, 1896, pp. 110, 115.

Greeting from an Accomplished Antiquary.

462 BEACON ST., BOSTON, Feb. 27, 1896.

MY DEAR MUNSON:

I congratulate you on the completion of your work, and on the two large volumes you have produced. The family ought to present you with a gold medal.

Yours very truly,

WM. S. APPLETON.

Estimates of Persons for whom the Book was Prepared.

I have had an opportunity to give a pretty careful examination to the Munson Family Record, which arrived a few days ago. I want to express my entire satisfaction with it, and to say that it even exceeds my best anticipations.

Attorney C. LARUE MUNSON,
(*Lecturer to Yale Law School.*)

I send my hearty congratulations to you, on the great success you have achieved. Your long years of labor are certainly rewarded by a glorious result. I am indeed proud to be found between the covers of such volumes. . . . We are all so much pleased with the family portraits.

Mrs. RICHARD HENRY GREENE,
235 Central Park, West, New York.

I should judge that you and your friends might be fully satisfied with your work. I congratulate you most heartily.

Mrs. JOHN K. JUDD, Holyoke, Mass. .

Allow me to congratulate you upon the admirable record you have compiled.

Attorney ALBERT J. MYER, BUFFALO, N. Y.
(*Son of the general and meteorologist.*)

One Yellow Leaf from the Munson Tree sends thanks and congratulations to the Rev. Myron A. Munson.

Mrs. FRED. B. WIGHTMAN,
68 East 131st Street, New York.

They are very fine books.

(Mrs.) FRANCES A. BENEDICT,
363 Adelphi Street, Brooklyn.

How keenly we have enjoyed The Munson Record. It is a most interesting work. . . . W.'s picture in the book is capital.

Mrs. WALTER D. MUNSON,
664 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn.

Stupendous task . . . successfully accomplished. . . . That the labor has been enormous is apparent upon every page. . . . These volumes are of inestimable value to-day ; they will be priceless fifty years hence. The arrangement of the work is so perfect that I believe these volumes will be used by future genealogists as a model for their works.

Attorney CLARENCE MUNSON BUSHNELL,
Buffalo, N. Y. (*amateur genealogist.*)

I am very much pleased with it. I am amazed at the extent of the work and the completeness of it.

GEORGE E. MUNSON, Seneca Falls, N. Y.

We are so delighted.

LILLIAN M. BASSETT, Derby, Conn.

I have seen no family history that compares with it for detail and exhaustiveness of research.

MYRTLE B. GAY, Scranton, Penn.

A monument to your patience and indefatigable research. We are all to be congratulated at the outcome.

Attorney FRED. W. MUNSON, Chicago.

Since the arrival of the Munson Book we have discarded all other literature, and are giving our days and nights to the study of ancestors. We are wholly pleased with it—matter, form, and everything. Apparently there are a good many small potatoes in the Munson hill, but they seem to be sound, and you have succeeded in giving an individuality to each particular tuber, which is remarkable. What shall we say to the historian to whom we are indebted for recovering all this buried treasure of family history? . . . Thomas and Myron A. shall stand side by side as the names we delight to honor ; and our gratitude to the faithful Historian shall not be less than our respect for the Founder.

MARY (CAMPBELL) MUNSON, Manchester, Vt.

Am very much pleased with it. Am very thankful.

Miss LYDIA MUNSON, Elmira, N. Y.

What a tremendous job it must have been, and how successful is the result. I congratulate you.

HORACE H. MUNSON, Wilmington, N. C.

I am very much pleased with them.

HORACE H. LOVELAND, M.D., Michigamme, Mich.

I congratulate you upon the successful issue of a great work. It is the best genealogy I have ever seen. I derive great pleasure from turning its pages.

GEORGE MUNSON CURTIS,
(*Treas. Meriden Britannia Co.—and amateur antiquary.*)

I am delighted with it. O how much time and labor you have given to the work !

REV. ABSALOM MONSON GRIFFITH, Sabina, Ohio.

I received my uncut volumes on Monday, and my wife says that I keep my ancestors up rather late nights.

JARED HOWES MUNSON, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Yours was a Herculean task, and you have right nobly performed it.

Col. GILBERT D. MUNSON, Zanesville, Ohio,

(*Judge of the Common Pleas Court.*)

My congratulations are late but hearty. The work was duly received, and has been the delight of my leisure hours ever since. I expected a fine thing. It exceeds my expectation. I think you have been wonderfully successful in the selection of material. As I turn the leaves at random, there is scarcely a page on which I do not find some matter of special interest.

LOVELAND MUNSON,

(*Judge of the Supreie Court of Vermont.*)

Viva Voce Expressions.

I enjoyed that Book very much,—I enjoyed it very much.

FRANK E. HOTCHKISS,

(*A Director of New Haven Colony Historical Society.*)

I have seen your Book. It is a splendid thing,—it is a splendid thing. It will be an authority for ages to come.

REV. GEORGE S. DICKERMAN,

(*Now editing the Dickerman genealogy.*)

WORTH NOTING.

The Munson Record presents 9,258 descendants of Thomas Munson; 4,671 were born with the Munson name, and 4,587 with other surnames—of which there are 657. Mention is made of 1,590 places in which these persons lived, and of 4,176 individuals who became their wives and husbands.. One of the six indexes names Outsiders—1,473 of them with 676 surnames.

Many who are not Munsons are liable to find value in the geographical and historical information presented, in the plan of Wallingford settlement, in the plans of the Soldiers' Field at Hartford, and the Ferry Path at New Haven, in the autographs of pioneers of New Haven and Wallingford, in fac-similes of Revolutionary documents, etc.

The present price of the work at our printing-house is Ten Dollars; on (or before) July 15, 1896, it will be raised to Twelve Dollars. Checks should be payable to the order of the Treasurer of the Munson Association, Edward G. Munson, Cohoes, N. Y. (or to Myron A. Munson, New Haven, Conn.)

June 1, 1896.

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SECOND GENERAL REUNION
OF THE
DESCENDANTS
OF
CAPT. THOMAS MUNSON
AUGUST 19, 1896.

Officers of the Association.

LOVELAND MUNSON, Vice Pres't.	SAMUEL L. MUNSON, Chairman Ex. Com.
GILBERT D. MUNSON, Vice Pres't.	EDWARD G. MUNSON, Sec. and Treas.

Committee on Arrangements.

GEORGE M. CURTIS.	C. LA RUE MUNSON.	FRANK E. HOTCHKISS.
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"The author . . . deserves great praise for the admirable manner in which he has performed his work. . . . We would recommend it as a model for works of the kind."—*The New-England Historical and Genealogical Register*.

"Elaborate and praiseworthy. . . . Much critical acumen is manifested throughout the work."—*The New-York Genealogical and Biographical Record*.

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"Since the arrival of the Munson Book we have discarded all other literature, and are giving our days and nights to the study of ancestors. We are wholly pleased with it—matter, form, and everything."—MARY (CAMPBELL) MUNSON.

The First Reunion, August 17th, 1887, called together five hundred members of the Family, and was regarded as a remarkable success. The *Proceedings*, printed in a handsome pamphlet of eighty-eight pages, are of permanent interest and value; they are not duplicated nor in any way superseded by *The Munson Record*. Price, one dollar. Apply to Edward G. Munson, the Treasurer of the Munson Association, at Cohoes, N. Y.

The *Historical Address* was characterized by the *N. E. Hist. and Gen. Reg.* as "A full and interesting memoir,—a contribution not only to the history of the Family, but also to that of the Colony."

The *Proceedings of The Second Reunion*, to which the present pamphlet is devoted, may be obtained from the financial executive of the Committee of Arrangements, George Munson Curtis, at Meriden, Conn., or from the coadjutor, Myron A. Munson, at New Haven. Price, fifty cents.

1637

1887

1896

PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE SECOND
Munson Family Reunion

HELD IN THE
CITY OF NEW HAVEN

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1896

NEW HAVEN:
THE TUTTLE, MOREHOUSE & TAYLOR PRESS

1896

E1. M92-8

PROGRAMME AT CHURCH.

Chairman.

THE REV. FREDERICK MUNSON, - - Brooklyn, N. Y.

Vice-Chairman.

MR. ROWLAND B. LACEY, - - - Bridgeport, Conn.

1. VOLUNTARY—Piano,
Prof. WILLARD L. MUNSON, Branford, Conn.
2. FAMILY WORSHIP,
The Rev. A. MONSON GRIFFITH, Sabina, Ohio.
3. ADDRESS OF WELCOME, - - - - THE CHAIRMAN.
4. RESPONSE, - Hon. GILBERT D. MUNSON, Zanesville, Ohio.
5. SINGING—"O God, beneath Thy guiding hand."
6. HISTORICAL ADDRESS,
CLARENCE MUNSON BUSHNELL, Esq., Buffalo, N. Y.
7. SECRETARY'S REPORT.
8. SINGING—"My country, 'tis of thee."
9. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
10. BENEDICTION.

EXERCISES.

C. LaRue Munson, Esq., called the meeting to order, and introduced the Rev. Frederick Munson as presiding officer.

On taking the chair, the Rev. Mr. Munson said :

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, *Brothers and Sisters of the Munson Family :*

I esteem it a great honor to have been chosen by the committee of arrangement to preside at this our second Family Reunion. The honor is all the greater because wholly unexpected and a complete surprise, and will be the more valued if I am able to perform the duties of the position in such a manner as to receive your approval and promote your enjoyment of the occasion.

FAMILY WORSHIP

was conducted by the Rev. Absalom Monson Griffith.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

By THE CHAIRMAN.

It is now my privilege to extend to you all, and to each of you, a hearty and sincere welcome. I am happy to be, in this, the voice of those to whom this duty may more especially belong. Indeed it may be difficult, if not impossible, to draw at this time any specific distinction between host and guest. Are we not unitedly, and with one accord, the host, hospitable, bounteous, and free of such as we possess, and giving the true welcome with open hand and open heart? And are we not equally guests, made to feel at home and set at ease by the kindly and gracious reception accorded us? The gentlemen of the committee, who with much labor and pains have made

the arrangements for this second reunion of the family, are certainly entitled to be regarded as of the host, and with them the modestly styled coadjutor, the Rev. Myron A. Munson, the family historian and biographer, who, with an amount of toil and perseverance that cannot be measured, has produced a voluminous work which in its line is of unequalled excellence. To be associated with these in constituting the host of this occasion are all those who in any way have given effective aid in bringing about this family reunion and promoting its objects. And yet it may be positively affirmed that no one of these desires to be other than a guest.

Were there now present any of our kindred from beyond the sea, from the fair kingdom whence came our common ancestor to make his home upon these shores, it might be said to them, Welcome to this pleasant land, these broad domains stretching from ocean to ocean and from the lakes to the gulf; welcome to the grand spectacles presented by its noble rivers, its broad plains, its lofty mountains, and the many wonders of nature in some of their sublimest manifestations; welcome to this home of liberty under just and equitable laws, and of plenty at most times for the industrious in the various employments and callings that invite exertion and promise rewards; welcome to the tokens of a civilization, which, as presented in our cities and towns, our varied manufactures, our many forms of business, our social and domestic life, our advance in science and art, our seats of learning, our vast railways and magnificent steamers, is worthy of its origin in the land from which it was transplanted, and is full of promise for the future; welcome to all that is here presented to cheer the peoples of the nations and to increase the hopes of mankind. The welcome would surely be given with a warmth and cordiality of greeting forever prohibitive of discord and strife.

To you who come from other states, near or remote, of our common country, I may say, Welcome to this State of Connecticut, one of the original thirteen which are represented by the thirteen stripes of alternate white and red upon the old flag, and feeling a sisterly affection for all the states, both old and new, which are radiant in the stars of our glorious banner. A native of this state, and grateful for all that has made it honorable and noteworthy, I may fitly bid you wel-

come to an acquaintance with its thrifty and intelligent people, its common schools, its varied industries, its academies and colleges, and its institutions for special instruction and professional study. Welcome to the state whose foundations were laid by those of strong faith and high character, such as were Capt. Thomas Munson, his wife Joanna, and those descendants of theirs who were active in influence during the formative period of this old commonwealth.

We bid you welcome also to this beautiful city of New Haven, where our honored ancestor had his home during the greater part of his useful and active life, where, as shown by copious early records of the town cited at large by our painstaking historian, he was prominent in public affairs, leader of the military forces and frequently in active service for the security of the city against the savage foe, largely trusted as an administrator and friend in social and family interests, and repeatedly through many years was elected to high offices in the town and in the colony by the suffrages of his fellow citizens. Welcome also to the famous university, Old Yale, whose modern and ornate buildings, replacing the plain brick row of former years, stand in gradually increasing numbers upon the campus or quadrangle near this celebrated green, while other edifices of the same great institution may be seen in almost every direction from that classic space of central interest. Welcome to Yale, so far as my enjoyment of its privileges many years ago may give me the right to utter it. The stately buildings invite your observation. Its many departments, each a great institution, indicate the breadth of instruction, mental training and fine culture which it provides. Its libraries and cabinets will awaken a new ambition in any susceptible young mind, and draw forth the desire to drink at such a fountain, whether here or elsewhere. Welcome to any worthy and noble impulse which Yale University can give you.

There have been changes among us since the reunion of nine years ago. In some of our homes and among our near kindred loved ones have passed away. Some who were here on the former occasion, whose voices were then heard, and whose presence and smiles increased the gladness, are with us no more. We drop a tear to their memory. We think of them with the comfort of hope. We bless our Heavenly

Father for what they were with us, and for what, as we trust, they now are in the home above. We feel a deep sympathy with those, our brothers and sisters, whose hearts in these bereavements have been pierced with unutterable sorrows. May divine consolations allay the sharpness of their grief.

There is one more welcome which I would fain give, a welcome to all the influences for good flowing from the life, the character, the usefulness, and the bright example of our ancestor whom we commemorate, who as a young man was one of the pioneers in this city and in organizing its civil and religious institutions, and who in the various experiences of life, whether joyous or afflictive, grew in mental and moral strength, in all manly qualities, and in the esteem and confidence of his contemporaries who continuously called him to high duties for the furtherance of the public welfare. In this present reunion we have an advantage over that of 1887 in an increased knowledge of our ancestor through the publication of the Family Record which so fully portrays him. We stand before that likeness with reverence. We give thanks to God for what he was and for what he was enabled to do. Welcome, then, to the inspiration to a true nobility of living which here comes from the fine record of a genuine life as seen in the course of our common ancestor, Capt. Thomas Munson.

RESPONSE.

By JUDGE GILBERT D. MUNSON.

As we listened to those warm words of welcome, two names, I am sure, suggested themselves to all of our minds, connecting the past with the present—Capt. Thomas Munson and Rev. Myron A. Munson. The old pioneer, Capt. Thomas Munson, stands before us, as if in full life. The magic pen of his learned descendant, Rev. Myron A. Munson, has wrought the vision. Conjured by the logic of hard, indisputable facts, Capt. Thomas Munson, that valuable citizen, that efficient soldier, that wise legislator, that upright judge, is in our midst, is here, with his family, to-day, taking part in these festivities. By genealogical lines not to be disputed, he

was our ancestor, and this welcome is first of all because of *him*; and next to him, it is because of his biographer, our historian. Therefore, commemorating him whose resplendent character and renown furnish the shining basis of our reunions, and with grateful recognition of him who has traced for each and all of us our right to attend them, and in behalf of all the Family, Mr. President, I return our hearty thanks for the noble welcoming address delivered by you.

This is our second reunion. Nine years ago, was held our first; and we are to be congratulated upon holding a second. Family pride based upon real merit in ancestors, is a good thing. It establishes an *esprit de corps* not easily broken away from. On that basis, we have just cause, if I may be pardoned in saying it, for proper family pride, and should continue these reunions.

Our ancestor's whole life was a life of merit. His was a grand life, because in common with those of other pioneers, it was actuated by a grand idea, the idea of equality before the law. That idea led to the independence of church and state; to the Declaration of Independence; to the Revolutionary War; to our Civil War; and will be consummated in the fullness of time, as I verily believe, in courts of arbitration, and in a grand court of international arbitration, when reason shall fight the only battles fought among the children of men, and wars and rumors of wars be heard of to trouble and distress us no more forever, but universal peace prevail.

I say this because sympathy is the direct development of the idea of equality; and there is to-day greater sympathy throughout our land than was ever known before. This is evidenced by higher social bodies or organizations, intellectual and moral, by means of which we are nearing that ideal state, in which all men, and women too, shall be so absolutely equal before the law, as to be able in fact to pursue each his or her happiness unobstructed.

The time has already arrived when instead of men of war, men of pacific measures are most useful. The time is now here when the whole machinery of civil government may be set in motion, if need be, to right the wrongs of an innocent child, or prevent war with a mighty foreign power, as the case may be. And the time is rapidly approaching when sympathy broad and deep, the development of equality before

the law, shall compel the human heart to feel the griefs and joys of the whole sentient universe, and to know no peace while pain and suffering are at hand, imploring relief.

Our Family root is imbedded in an idea producing such results as these. Why, of all the wondrous things born or developed in the interim between 1685 and 1896, sympathy portends most for mankind, because it portends the ideal commonwealth, and, as its consummation, altruistic triumph everywhere.

Now if I am right in this view,—of the development of the idea which actuated our ancestor,—could family tree be deeper set, in more prolific soil? Then I submit we have just cause for proper family pride; and for the reason given, as well as for others equally good, these reunions of the Family should be promoted, fostered, and continued.

I thank you, again, for our cordial welcome.

ORATION.

OUR ANCESTRAL HISTORY.

By CLARENCE MUNSON BUSHNELL, Esq.

WERE the most gifted of our family to stand to-day in the place that the favor of the committee has assigned me, he would find himself poor in words to express the pleasure which I feel in meeting for the first time so many of the descendants of our illustrious ancestor, and my appreciation of the right to share with you the distinction of his name. Perhaps to none of those who have gathered here to do honor to his memory does this meeting mean so much as it does to him who is permitted to address you. Many of you were born within the shadows of the ancestral home, and many more have remained within the boundaries of our native state. You have dwelt among the traditions of the family. In story you have gone forth with Thomas Munson against the Pequots to the banks of the Mystic river. You have seen him raised from the rank of private to that of lieutenant and of captain, and finally you have seen him placed in command of the New Haven county soldiery of the standing army. You have stood guard with him at Saybrook, and accompanied him upon the march to Suckquackheeg. You have discerned his figure in the thickest gloom of King Philip's war. Nightly, for years, as the shades of evening stole over this infant city, you have seen him march forth to set the "watch." You have sat with him upon the bench of the Plantation court and upon the bench of the Court of Appeals. Step by step you have followed his career as soldier, as legislator, as jurist, as citizen. You have had ever before you the records of

the confidence reposed in him by his fellow-men and by the officials of the colony. You have stood beneath the elms that sheltered his home; you have walked by his side upon The Green; you have knelt in worship in the church of which he was a member; and at the close of his eventful life you saw him borne to his final rest.

The simple stone that through the centuries succeeding his death has marked his grave, and has told the stranger as he passed it only of his name and span of life, has been to you a silent but constant and solemn reminder of the obligations imposed by his memory.

Not so with those of his descendants whose ancestors in the early generations left the state of Connecticut and made for themselves a home among strangers. Separated from the family and the associations of youth, the recollections of kindred gradually grew fainter and at last died out in their children. Doubtless many of those before me, like myself, have come to-day for the first time to the home of our forefathers. Until now I have chanced to meet only seven persons older than myself who bore the name of Munson. But it detracts nothing from my estimate of the family character that it is based largely upon the life of her from whom are derived my highest conceptions of womanhood.

Until within the last few years, the possession by the average American of even the slightest knowledge of his ancestry was considered almost an offense against our social customs.

A celebrated French scholar and observer who recently visited this country for the purpose of studying our institutions and people says that when an American has nothing to do for a long half day, he sits down and wonders who his grandfather was. If we seek among the beginnings of the Republic for the causes of this apparent lack of hereditary pride, we may find many which imply neither forgetfulness nor disregard of the memory and worth of our fathers. Chief, perhaps, among them is the fact that the records of colonial New England throw so little light upon the lineage of her people, that it is scarcely

possible for any one, except by years of patient labor, to trace his descent back through the earlier generations. Were it not for the records of the various towns, meager and imperfect though they be, he who undertakes the task would learn oftentimes only by half-legendary tradition of the existence even of those ancestors whose lives shed brightest lustre on their family name. Perchance he might learn of their birth from the records of the church, and from the humble headstones in the graveyard which surrounds it he might fix the dates of their death, but beyond these he could seldom go. History tells us no more of the lives and sacrifices of many of those of the earlier days whose achievements would have won for them in the old world the proudest titles that royal favor could bestow.

Another cause may be found, but half concealed, beneath the popular interpretation of that phrase in our Declaration of Independence, that "all men are created equal." As an American, proud of the land of my nativity and jealous of her place among the nations of the earth and of her future, I trust that the hour may never come when the sublime truth embodied in these words shall not be recognized as the fundamental principle of our government. But to contend, simply because under our laws all men are accorded equal legal rights and privileges, that all social, moral and intellectual distinctions are to be disregarded, is to pervert the meaning of the declaration and to assail the very foundations of society. Under no form of government are the vicious equal to the virtuous, the ignorant to the enlightened, the anarchist to the patriot. How soon would the republic of America take her place among the dead republics of the past and become a silent tenant of history's page, if she could not, in her hours of need, call to her aid the descendants of the men who laid the foundations of her present power and greatness. If the sacrifices of the fathers in behalf of their country and liberty do not stimulate a loftier patriotism in the hearts of their sons than in the bosoms of strangers, we should do them the justice to

speaking no more aloud their names, nor claim the benefits of their labors, but by our silence make the confession that we are faithless to the one and unworthy the glory of the other.

Another cause, perhaps as potent as either of those I have named, is that until within a very recent period the energies of the American people have been directed to practical questions of government and to the development of the wonderful resources of our country.

In an address delivered in the city of Buffalo last month, Brander Matthews truly said that "American literature is now but little older than the three score years and ten allotted as the span of a man's natural life." Irving's *Sketch-Book* and Cooper's *Spy* did not appear until several years after the beginning of the present century. Previous to this the intellectual development of the country had assumed mainly the theological form, with the exception of oratory, which was born at the epoch of the Revolution. In 1775, one hundred and fifty-five years after the landing of the Pilgrims, there were but thirty-seven newspapers in circulation in the entire country. Unaided, except by the data preserved by analysts, by the writings of Ramsey and of Marshall, and by the researches of Grahame, Bancroft, born in 1800, entered the rich field of American history. But until within the last ten or fifteen years, our historical writings have been confined almost exclusively to the leading facts in our national growth; to a backward glance at the state of Europe, the causes of emigration, and the standard of political and social advancement in the colonies. This told only the story, grand as it was, of a people, but left untold or to tradition the individual deeds of valor and of patriotism of all except the few who stood in the full midday light of history. It appealed to the pride of an American as a citizen, but it did not arouse his personal pride as a descendant of the men who won from oppression and wrong the government which for a century past has represented the highest aspirations of humanity. It told of the flight to Leyden and of the landing at Ply-

mouth, of the colonial wars and of the Revolution; but it did not connect him with those events. With increased leisure and the means of education and research, and with the great interest that has been awakened in the study of local history, traditions have been verified, family genealogies have been compiled, and the descendants of the men of New England who early crossed the Hudson, the Mohawk, and the Susquehanna, and later passed beyond the Alleghanies and over the Sierra Nevada, have recently learned for the first time of the true relation that they bore to the mighty struggle of humanity in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, which culminated in the republic of America.

At once Colonial and Revolutionary patriotic organizations were formed, historical societies multiplied, priceless records that had remained in manuscript for centuries were printed, local data were collected, arranged and published, suitable monuments were erected to the memory of the heroes and statesmen of the past, and tablets placed upon the spots where the chief events of our history had taken place. With these have come a deeper and more intense spirit of national attachment, of Americanism; a more intelligent appreciation of the labors, the sacrifices, and the triumphs of those who have preceded us, and naturally to many a feeling of hereditary pride. While I would not be understood as favoring the adoption in this country of social grades and distinction similar to those that prevail in the old world, based either upon wealth, the achievements of ancestors, or family name, I would abate in no degree the feelings of honest pride of birth in him who traces his lineage to Pilgrim or to Puritan, to Cavalier or to Revolutionary sire.

I shall not attempt upon this occasion, pleasant as would be the theme, to recount the deeds of the different members of our own family, or to relate the part they have borne in the great events of the past. That task has been performed with so much skill and learning, with such rare discrimination and exhaustive research, by the historian of our family, that no one, for many years at least to come,

may venture to walk by his side in that field of inquiry. Great as is our sense of obligation to Myron A. Munson, the full appreciation of his work will come only with succeeding generations, to which, but for his patient toil, the records of our family would doubtless have been lost forever. However much he may owe to those who have preceded him, I believe that the two volumes that bear his name will long be accepted as standards in their department of literature.

Unaware even of my relationship to our honored ancestor until informed by him, and with no means at my command for original research, I can in no particular amplify his work. But as I read again in his pages the history of the earlier days as illustrated by the lives of those whose name we bear, there came to me new interest in the story, a feeling of personal responsibility to the men of prior times, and a truer appreciation of the dignity of American manhood and citizenship. And to-day, although fully mindful of the fact that there is no place in this country where American history is studied with greater zeal, or more clearly understood than at this ancient seat of learning, I ask you to go back with me to the days of Thomas Munson and look for a moment at the influences which guided and governed the men of that period in their work of laying the foundations of this mighty nation. Two centuries separate their labors from ours. We have outlived the prophecy of De Maistre and survived the ordeal which de Tocqueville foresaw and feared; but we have still to contend with the dangers which lurk in an expansion of the Republic in population, domain and wealth, dangers born of peace, not of conflict—of strength, not of weakness—dangers which I believe can be averted or overcome only by keeping alive in the breasts of their descendants the spirit which governed, controlled and dominated their lives.

History furnishes us with no other instance of a nation founded by men of character comparable to that of the men who composed the New England colonies. "God," said William Stoughton, in 1688, "sifted a whole nation

that He might send choice grain into the wilderness." While it is doubtless true that the Pilgrims "dreamed not of empire" when they left their place of exile in Holland and crossed the ocean, yet they brought with them the spirit of liberty which in a hundred forms was then hovering over the nations of the old world. Although they came seeking only freedom to worship God in their own way, the Pilgrim and the Puritan brought with them in addition to the free church the free school; and from these arose, in obedience to the inexorable logic of Puritanism, the free state. No words express with half the eloquence, no subsequent event illustrates with half the force, the devotion and the courage of our Pilgrim Fathers as does the simple fact that, although returning spring was welcomed by but half of those who had landed in December, and only five of these were left in sufficient health to close the eyes of the dying and bear them to their nameless graves, yet when the Mayflower returned to England in April she bore not homeward a single Pilgrim. Is it strange that principles nurtured by so sublime a faith and defended by such dauntless courage should have survived the attacks of the savage, triumphed in the war of the Revolution, and subjected the continent to their sway?

It cannot with fairness be claimed that our government was founded solely on Puritan teachings. Doctrines and ideas came from other sources. We must not forget the grave at Monticello or the tomb at Mount Vernon; and let us ever remember that the first proclamation in this country of freedom in religious thought and worship came not from Protestant New England, but from Catholic Maryland, which declared that "No one in this province who believes in Jesus Christ shall be molested in the free exercise of his or her religion."

But after accrediting to the other forces that have aided in our growth the full measure even of their claims, to New England still must be accorded the glory of having contributed more to the development of our national character, institutions and government than all the other agencies combined.

The true character of the Puritan has been, perhaps, as often concealed by unmerited praise as by unwarranted detraction. The life of Thomas Munson, as depicted by our historian, presents a faithful portrait of the typical Puritan. As disclosed to us it is invested with neither mystery nor romance. From the day that he first emerges from obscurity at the age of twenty-five until his death at seventy-three, his biography is but the story of unswerving devotion to the colony and to his God. And this is the story of Puritanism. Of what they suffered and endured, harassed by Indians, beset by death in every form, cut off from civilization and beyond the knowledge of their friends and of mankind, we need not speak; their glory springs not from what they endured, but from the fact that they endured it; not from what they suffered, but from what they accomplished; not from the memories which they left behind them, but from those they have handed down to us.

The foremost trait of character that distinguished our ancestors was their profound religious faith, and from this has arisen most of the misapprehension that surrounds their character. Although the Puritans may justly be charged with intolerance, they cannot be accused of inconsistency. They came to this country, not for the purpose of founding a colony in which any one might worship God as he pleased, but for the purpose of securing freedom to worship God in their own way. Religious tolerance was not taught in the fierce school of oppression in which they had been reared. For the purpose of securing freedom of worship, they fled from England to Holland; and that they might preserve among their children the language and traditions of their native land, they came to this country. Their purpose was to found a theocratic state in which the minutest details of their daily life should be regulated by their interpretation of Holy Writ; and although they brought with them the germs of civil as well as of religious liberty, nothing could have been farther from their thoughts than the institution of a government that would condemn to death

the judges, jurors and witnesses who participated in the trials for witchcraft, and would command them to take their place on the scaffold on Gallows Hill by the side of their hapless victims—a government that stands proud and imperious among the nations of the earth, yet guards with equal solicitude the religious rights and views of Gentile and of Jew, of Protestant and of Catholic, of Christian and of Infidel. Could they have foreseen the ultimate result of their labors, history would probably contain no mention of the voyage of the Mayflower. While we may not justify their stern religious fanaticism, their memory pleads for no apology at our hands. By their lives they have made even the name “fanatic” illustrious.

Inseparable from their religious views, and grounded upon them, was their spirit of independence. But this trait of character was to them an inheritance. If we would seek its origin, we must turn our eyes far away from the shores of New England and look much farther back in English history than the establishment of the church at Scrooby Manor or the flight to Holland. More than two centuries before James I. declared at Hampton Court that he would make the Puritans “conform or harry them out of the land,” it had challenged the Roman dogma of spiritual supremacy and ushered in the heroic age of England. Slowly and quietly it gathered strength during succeeding reigns, stayed not by persecution or oppression, appalled not by the terrors of the dungeon, the sword or the faggot, until it struggled up to victory on the battle field of Marston Moor and Naseby and ascended with Cromwell the throne of England. It was this same spirit which in 1636 dotted the harbor of Boston with forts in opposition to the schemes of Charles I. to annul the charter of Massachusetts and gave to Beacon Hill its name; that later found expression on the lips of Otis, of Adams and of Patrick Henry; that stood fire at Concord and at Lexington, and is commemorated by the shaft on Bunker Hill; that called Putnam from the plow, Stark from the hills of New

Hampshire, and Greene from his home in Rhode Island ; that "smote for liberty" at Trenton, that withstood the sufferings of Valley Forge, that stormed the enemy's works at Stony Point, that sailed the seas with the brave Paul Jones, that won at Monmouth, that received the sword of Cornwallis at Yorktown ; and that, at last, as if to rear with its own hands a monument upon which should be forever tranfixed the gaze of all mankind, incarnated itself in the life of that matchless figure of the centuries, George Washington.

Closely interwoven with the religion of the Puritans and their ideas of government, was their love of education. According to their theory of life, ignorance was the basis of both popery and despotism. By the side of the church they built the school-house, thus laying the foundation of our system of public schools, in which to-day are taught to sixteen millions of our young not only the English language but the principles of liberty as well. Compulsory education was born in the little colony of Connecticut long before it was even thought of by Frederick of Prussia. In direct opposition to the theory of society which prevailed in the countries of Europe, that the great body of the people should have no part in the government of church or state, and were better kept in ignorance, the New England colonies declared that the state could not endure the results of ignorance in her citizens, and provided the common schools for the common people. Deny if you will to our forefathers all praise save that which rests upon what they did in behalf of education, and you have left them still enough to entitle them to the grateful remembrance of mankind. Light and darkness cannot dwell together. In the common schools of the colonies was fostered the spirit that animated the Revolution and made us free. But it was reserved for a later century to demonstrate the full value of these infant seminaries of liberty. When the supreme test of our institutions came, when the descendant of the Puritan met face to face upon the field of battle the descendant of the Cavalier, and "the hearts of men stood

still," it was the love of country taught in our common schools that won.

Permit me here to record my dissent from the assumption which universally prevails and which found expression in Professor Shaler's article in the June number of the *North American Review* on "Environment and Man in New England," to the effect that slavery was only an accident of soil and climate, and that if the Puritans had settled in Jamestown they would have become its advocates and defenders. I do not believe it. The principles upon which slavery rested were incompatible with the fundamental principles of Puritan belief. Slavery did exist in early New England, but New England arose above it and discarded it, not simply because it was unprofitable, but because it was odious and hateful to the religious faith of her people, condemned by their spirit of independence, and opposed by the teachings of her common schools and colleges. And if the people of New England, throughout all their history, have been distinguished by one characteristic more than by another, it is their willingness to sacrifice material interests to what they believe to be right. Slavery comported with the habits, the training and the more seductive life of the Cavalier, but it could not fasten its roots in the soil of New England, to whose sons, then as now, wealth, ease and position come, if they come at all, as the reward of persistent personal effort. Even if slavery had become one of the fixed institutions of New England, she would have outgrown it and thrown it off, as it was thrown off by England, whose soil, long before our own, became too sacred for the footsteps of the slave.

Religion, liberty and education, these were the forces which dominated the colony founded by the Agreement which bears the name of our honored ancestor; and these were the forces which sustained her sister colonies and which to-day characterize the descendants of New England wherever found. The creation of the political institutions by which liberty is maintained in this country will forever stand as the crowning glory of the work of the men of colonial days.

Two hundred and fifty-seven years have passed since the first written instrument creating a government was signed at Hartford. This, says Fiske, "marked the beginning of American democracy." Within that time, short as it may seem compared to the age of the leading nations of Europe or to those of antiquity, a mighty people have arisen, and, throwing aside the theories of the nations that preceded them, they have established a government upon principles never before recognized as the basis of civil power, confidence in the multitude, in its honesty, its intelligence, its patriotism—confidence, in short, in the dignity of man. Marvelous has been our growth, and grand our achievements; but does continued prosperity await us? I share in no degree the fears of those who see nothing but clouds above our heads, and hear no sounds save those of convulsions beneath our feet. I believe that the republic of America was never so strong in all the elements of life and power as it is to-day. But society both in this country and in the old countries is entering upon a period of intense unrest produced by the spread of education and the demand for a solution of those problems which have been called forth by the material and industrial progress of the present generation. The liberty of speech which our institutions allow, and the fact that our population to-day comprises all grades and conditions of mankind, must make the discussion of these questions with us especially relentless and bitter. As if to put democracy to the most severe test that could be devised, we permit all who will to come, and almost upon their arrival clothe them with the sacred rights of citizenship. The idle, the worthless and the criminal, even he who sees only in social chaos his ideals of human existence, and would supplant the emblem of liberty with the flag of anarchy, is allowed an equal voice with him whose ancestors and kindred sleep in the unmarked graves upon every battlefield of the Republic. From the adoption of the Constitution to 1820, a period of thirty-one years, the total immigration to this country was 250,000 persons. From 1880 to 1890 it exceeded five and one-half millions. Dur-

ing a single year in that decade it reached the startling figure of 789,000. Certainly it could not have been contemplated by those who framed the Constitution that we should ever receive within so short a time such an enormous influx of people who are strangers to our laws and customs and in no way prepared for our social and political life. Every attempt to modify our naturalization laws or to restrict immigration arouses the opposition of the politician and the demagogue and awakens the fears of party leaders; while every extension of the right of suffrage or the removal of a barrier to immigration is applauded as an act done in the name of humanity.

The growth of private fortunes is creating in many of our people an ambition for the social distinctions and privileges which exist under other forms of government, and is exciting in the poorer classes feelings of envy and bitterness, while labor ceaselessly demands before the doors of corporate power its real or fancied rights and rewards.

Perhaps the greatest danger to our system of government and to our liberties lies in the growing indifference to public affairs of a large portion of our well-meaning and educated citizens. The day when the caucus and primary recorded the verdict of the party in the choice of candidates is gone, and I believe gone forever, and they serve now only to record the wishes of the professional politicians.

Other causes of discord and discontent exist, and other dangers which threaten us might be named, had not the discussion of them long ago been rendered familiar to those I address, by the scholars, writers and statesmen of New England. For here, as in no other part of our country, have the teaching and wise counsels of the fathers been cherished and revered, and any departure from them met with reproof. Indeed, I should crave your pardon, my friends and kindred, for having touched at all upon so trite a subject, did not the circumstances under which we are met and the occasion seem irresistibly to force the mind into this channel, to awaken within us a sense of duty as men, and to appeal to our pride and patriotism as citizens.

The rights and privileges for which the Puritan contended are now accorded to a large proportion of mankind, and in no land save ours more freely than in that from whose oppression he fled. The dangers which beset his life are gone, but new perils have come. The work of the Puritan is not done. Time has mellowed and smoothed away the asperity of his religious views, but it has left us his habits of industry and frugality, his high sense of personal honor, his bravery and moral courage, his love of learning, his integrity and economy in public affairs, his respect for law, his devotion to the cause of freedom, his attachment to his country, and his reverence for God; and not until these principles regulate the conduct of all who inhabit this land will the labors of the Puritan be finished. Until that time shall have come, his brave and dauntless soul must stand guard upon the turrets of our temples of liberty and progress. By the unalterable laws which constituted his rules of life must American manhood be measured; by his standards of right and wrong must questions of governmental policy be determined. From no other course can come the solution of the problems that confront us and protection from the dangers that menace us.

Men and women in whose veins flows the blood of Thomas Munson, the preservation in history of the deeds and virtues of our ancestor imposes upon us added obligations to society and to our country.

Through the vista of two centuries and a half we may discern his commanding figure standing upon the rugged shores of New England, in the full vigor of his early manhood. For eight and forty years he walks within our view. As though conscious that every step he takes would be subjected to the light of after ages, he turns not once aside from the pathway of duty. His fellow-men appeal to him and he answers; the church demands his services, and he responds; the colony calls to him for protection against the savage and its foes, and proudly he stands forth scorning the fear of death. Oh, my kindred, how rich in example, how worthy of emulation was the

life of him who sleeps in yonder grave. Not one of those who are here assembled, or of the thousands who have borne his name ; not one of his descendants who on subsequent battle-fields have won renown, or in literature, the arts, or sciences, have achieved distinction, but might turn with pride and salute him, *Sire*. And here to-day, amid the scenes of his life, let us resolve that his noble convictions of right and duty, inspired by the immortal truths of religion and his high standard of integrity and honor, shall be forever preserved by all who bear the name of Munson.

PROGRAMME AT DINNER.

Chairman.

C. LARUE MUNSON, ESQ., - - - Williamsport, Pa.

Vice-Chairman.

MR. EDWARD G. MUNSON, - - - Cohoes, N. Y.

TOASTS.

1. INTRODUCTORY, - - - THE CHAIRMAN.

2. "THE MUNSON RECORD,"

THE REV. MYRON A. MUNSON, New Haven.

At the call of the Chairman :

3. MR. EDWARD G. MUNSON, - - - Cohoes, N. Y.


4. MR. ROWLAND B. LACEY, - - - Bridgeport, Ct.

5. MR. STEPHEN MUNSON, - - - Chicago, Ill.

6. HARLAN L. MUNSON, ESQ., - - - Westfield, N. Y.

7. CHAPLAIN A. M. GRIFFITH, - - - Sabina, O.

8. C. M. BUSHNELL, ESQ., - - - Buffalo, N. Y.

 In the evening, the company will occupy Harmonie Hall and parlor for social intercourse, musical entertainment by volunteers, etc.

MENU.

Broiled Spring Chicken. Currant Jelly. Cold Turkey. Cranberry Sauce.

Lamb. Potato Salad.

Cold Tongue. Cold Ham. Sliced Tomatoes. Celery.

Chicken Salad. Lobster Salad.

Wine Jelly.

Round Jelly Cakes. Assorted Cakes.

Fruit. Neapolitan Ice Cream. Mottoes.
Coffee. Tea.

TOASTS AND AFTER-DINNER SPEECHES.

This department* of the day's observance was opened with an address by the presiding officer, C. LA RUE MUNSON, Esq.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, *Cousins and Joint Descendants of an Honored Ancestor :*

I greet you.

The gastronomic portion of our programme being completed, post-prandial oratory is now the order of the day. That you will suffer no disappointment in listening to those who will be called upon to fulfil that duty, I am well assured. Your toast-master, however, feels that the occasion will not be made more happy by that which he may have to say, and fears that you may find yourselves somewhat in the position of Michael Casey, at his wife's funeral. The undertaker approached him at the end of the services, and said, "Mr. Casey, the religious part of these obsequies are now closed and you will take the first carriage with your mother-in-law." To which Casey replied, "I am quite willing to have all the arrangements duly carried out, but the whole pleasure of the occasion is now spiled."

Could any occasion be more pleasant than an assemblage of the descendants of an honored ancestor? Gathered from various parts of our broad land, we meet to honor the name and memory of one who had no small part in forming the government under which we live, and in securing the civil and religious liberty of which the American citizen can so

*As the remarks of those who responded to toasts were extemporaneous, and as no notes were taken of them, the editor has requested the speakers to write out responses, comprising what they said, or may have said, or might have said.

well be proud. In making the assertion that our Colonial ancestry had its share in the foundation of our government we do not misstate the facts nor give to those of our forefathers any undue credit. From want of knowledge of our early Colonial history, the American people have been too apt to give all the honor to the heroes of the Revolution. Their respect and reverence is equally due to those who first settled these shores and made possible the later American Union. The successes of the Revolution were won by the training the Colonial soldiers, and their forefathers, had in the early French and Indian wars. Washington's military strategy and skill were acquired in the forests and morasses of the Ohio Valley; Yorktown, Saratoga and Trenton, were won by the brave soldiers of the Pequot and King Philip Wars, and of the early battles of the West and South. The Declaration of Independence was the natural daughter of Magna Charta. The principles of liberty, embedded in the hearts of Thomas Munson and the men of his times, and brought by them from Mother England, blossomed in the souls of their sons into an indissoluble Union. The eternal principles of equal rights to all men, and a desire for a government by the people, for the people and of the people, which led the Puritan across the stormy Atlantic to an almost unknown and barren shore, bore fruit in his grandchildren in a constitution which has stood the test of time and has been pronounced by an eminent writer to be, next to Holy Writ, the most perfect exposition of human rights ever written.

Few of us appreciate the Puritan influence upon American history, American government and America's commercial industrial progress, as well as upon her religious and educational control of the hearts and minds of her citizens. Let it be the proud boast of New England's sons that, go where they will, in all this broad land, in every city, in every town and village, in every community, small or great, and inquiring of its prosperity, of its achievements and of its civil and religious progress, it will be found that all have been fostered, if not largely secured, by those in whose veins flows the blood of the Puritan settlers of the New England Colonies. Such a Puritan was Thomas Munson and such a citizen was our famous ancestor: his blood pulses in our veins, and so far as we are filled with patriotism and a desire to do noble deeds

and achieve a place of honor among our fellow citizens, we can attribute a part, at least, of those characteristics to an inheritance from our honored Pilgrim Father.

To enliven the moment, although tending somewhat to the ridiculous, may I tell a little story I lately read in a comic paper, which humorously illustrates a worthy desire to affiliate with Puritan blood? The scene was a darky ball, and the characters a dusky maiden and her escort, tricked out in the finery in which some of that race are so prone to adorn themselves. "Mistah Johnsing," said the maiden, "Is you one of those who can trace their blood back to de Plymouth Rock?" "I can't say, Miss Fairfax, dat I can do that, but I got hol' of some Plymouth Rock chickens one moonlight night, and de nex' day I could trace my blood along de road I came over for more than fo' miles."

We have with us one of the descendants of Thomas Munson, whom I would honor as a Munson second only to our great ancestor. For twelve long years his whole time has been devoted to recording the history of the deeds of that ancestor, and to the records of his descendants. How well he has performed that labor his most successful Munson Record well testifies. Admittedly the best genealogical record yet published, and likely to be long without a rival, and never to be surpassed, his work is an honor, not only to himself, but as well, to the whole Munson Family. It was prepared without reward, or hope of reward, but there will be a reward for him more honorable and lasting than gold or silver could buy. When all of us are mingled with the dust; when our very names, except as he has preserved them, have perished; when every Munson now living has been forgotten, his name will remain a shining luminary in the firmament of the family. No marble shaft or stately granite need mark his resting place, for he has erected a monument to his name and fame which neither time can efface nor years destroy. It is with the greatest pleasure that I present to you a Munson of the Munsons; a true descendant of Thomas, an Elisha who is entitled to wear the mantle of an Elijah, our Family historian, the Rev. Myron A. Munson.

RESPONSE OF THE HISTORIAN.

For the generous appreciation of THE RECORD, so handsomely expressed by yourself, Mr. Chairman, by the orator of the day, and by the other speakers at the morning session, I tender my cordial thanks.

A young girl expressed dissatisfaction with a sermon which she had heard. "What was there that you did not like?" one inquired. She replied, "The beginning was good, and so was the ending, but it had too much middle." You may listen cheerfully to the beginning of my speech, and will certainly be pleased at its ending; but you are suspicious, as I also am, of the rest of it; for is not the speaker he who gave such magnitude to the Munson Book, and is not that book the theme prescribed to him? The speaker will be on his guard.

This is Munson Day: "A red-letter day," do you suggest? Not quite that; it would require all rich and splendid colors to letter it properly. A lady whose home is beyond Lake Michigan, wrote us that she expected to arrive, unattended, in the evening, and would be pleased with an escort to her lodging. To aid in identification, she gave some description of herself; one item was that she was five feet two inches in height. When I saw her this morning she was five feet eleven inches! And I believe that we are all several inches taller than usual to-day.

Fourteen years ago there was not a Munson in the land, so far as I am aware, who knew his lineage through more than four or five generations; not one who knew anything of his pioneer ancestor. And the great Family was unknown to itself; each person knew a few relatives, but the Family at large was as unknown to itself as the western hemisphere was unknown before Columbus. It remained to be discovered. And not only was it a *terra incognita*, but there was little interest in questions respecting the membership of the Family. Our relatives had to be educated into a care for this knowledge, had to have a desire for it kindled, and very interesting have been the manifestations of progress continually bubbling into view.

An impression has been repeatedly mentioned that Connecticut is the principal abode of the Munsons. In the earlier generations it was, but how changed is the situation to-day.

We have found 135 localities in Connecticut where our Munsons have dwelt ; but in Ohio we have found 144 such localities, and in New York, 346. The total number of places discovered in which the descendants of Thomas Munson have dwelt is 1,590 ; of these, 1,531 are in the United States. Can you take in the significance of this amazing fact, that our Family has occupied 1,531 strategic points in forty-eight States and territories ? Why should not the Republic go right and be a good place to live in when ten thousand Munsons occupy all the valleys and plains, prairies, hillsides and mountain-tops, inculcating correct views and forming public sentiment in accordance with an enlightened Christian patriotism ? If society were ever to behave itself and be happy, must it not be under the tutelage and guidance of the sons and daughters of Thomas Munson ?

Just at this point it occurs to me that the Munsons have taken a hand in fashioning the exemplary State of Pennsylvania. They have occupied therein as many as seventy-eight stations, and from those stations have radiated illumining and elevating influences towards all points of the compass. Behold, then, a State whose intelligence, social order, prosperity and general happiness are preëminent. Pardon an oversight : Pennsylvania is a republican State,—just the kind of commonwealth which every judicious democrat wishes to live in ! Imagine our eloquent and esteemed chairman, La Rue, consenting to reside under any other *régime* ! You couldn't get him out of Pennsylvania with the help of a regiment of cavalry or a cyclone.

I may mention, finally, two considerations which have afforded cheer as I prosecuted my interminable task. One was that the results of my exertion might be expected to amplify the happiness of the Family. What joy of the life that now is may be compared with that which springs from the love of kindred, each for each, and each for all, and all for each ? If the pleasures springing from family affection are multiplied ; if those whose hearts warm with kinship towards us and towards whom our hearts warm, are multiplied by a hundred or a thousand, must not such acquisitions enrich life inexpressibly ? It seems to me that my own gratification with this mortal career, has been doubled by the discovery of my new-found, long-lost relatives.

* The other consideration to which I alluded was this : my confidence that a general and intimate acquaintance with the admirable members of the Family whose light is shining from ocean to ocean and from bay to gulf, and—still more impressively—with our admirable forefathers whose light now shines only from history and from heaven,—my confidence, I say, that a general and intimate acquaintance with such would exert a potent influence in ennobling the present and succeeding generations. The quality of our Family is unquestionably superior ; to contribute to the further elevation of its tone is a function which the speaker deems not unworthy. How many and bright ideals does the Family history present ! And how animating are the varied spectacles of excellence and usefulness ! Does not the sight of aspiring and achieving cousins, the sight of aspiring and achieving sires kindle within us new aspirations and excite us to attempt higher achievements ? The laurels of Miltiades : did they deprive Themistocles of sleep ? O, that the laurels of our Munson laureates may be a perpetual incitement to excel one's present self, to tread with zealous step an ascending path. Sweetness of spirit, fidelity to truth, soundness of character, wealth of usefulness,—such are the excellences which light up a human life with a glow that endures though all the constellations of the sky be extinguished.

(3) Below the great falls of the Hudson, at Cohoes, is a manufactory for the production of health and comfort in the form of nether garments ; its founder and proprietor—prominent among the business men of the Empire State—is a loyal member of our Family, and laboriously devoted to the Family enterprises ; I call upon our Secretary and Treasurer, Edward G. Munson.*

* Mr. Munson had already said in his Report at the morning session : Nine years have come and gone since our first reunion. Many who were present at that gathering have passed over to their reward. Our lamented president, Luzerne I. Munson, has gone. Mrs. Grace Munson Wheeler, who was with us then and continued to live to the age of nearly one hundred years, has gone to meet her ancestors, and ours, on the other shore. A number of other starred names will occur to each of us. Many also have come into this active, busy world, lengthening the Family roll-call. Probably a majority of those present at our previous meeting are not with us to-day. Many who were not here then are here now.

I think it fitting to make brief reference to the meritorious services of my predecessor in office, Curtiss J. Monson, Sr. His arduous and efficient labors in promoting and sustaining the former reunion were known to few, but they were praiseworthy and deserving of universal appreciation and gratitude.

Mr. Chairman and Cousins :

Seated in the United-Church chapel this morning, my attention was first called to the fact that my name was on the list of members who, "at the call of the chairman," were expected to say something after dinner in this hall. If my post-office address had not been given I might have imagined it referred to some other Munson bearing the same name.

I know we all enjoyed the exercises in the chapel—greetings, worship, music, addresses, oration, and not least, the Secretary and Treasurer's report in regard to our financial condition. By this report you were advised of the Association's doings from Aug. 17, 1887, to Aug. 19, 1896.

Hard work and much valuable time have been given by those upon whom the duty devolved to make this gathering a fitting conclusion to the preparation and publication of *The Munson Record*.

Much money has been contributed to meet the financial needs. Notwithstanding these pleasant remembrances, we, as an association, are in debt, mostly to our printing-house, about \$900. Any aid you can give the Association in paying this debt will be appreciated.

(4) The Vice-Chairman of the morning session, for many years treasurer of the city of Bridgeport, and employed during a much longer period in responsible public positions, is president of the Fairfield County Historical Society and uncommonly fond of inquiring into local and family history. I call upon Rowland B. Lacey, *atatis* seventy-eight.

Mr. Chairman and Kinsmen, Ladies and Gentlemen :

It gives me great pleasure to meet so goodly a representation of the Munson Family to-day in this second reunion, and under such pleasant auspices. The only thing unpleasant to me is that I am expected to make a speech. Having informed the committee of the uncertainty of my presence and my wish, in case I might be able to attend, to be entirely inconspicuous, I hoped to enjoy the occasion very quietly, and hence am altogether without preparation. However, since I am here and on my feet, I should be false to my feelings and fail in my duty to our indefatigable historian did I not extend to him and to the entire family my hearty congratulations on the completion of his elaborate and noble work, well and appropriately named the "Munson Record." What might have been a bare genealogical skeleton—valuable indeed for

locating the parts, he has succeeded in clothing with so much of personality and achievement that each member of the various clans is introduced to the others, and an interested kinship promoted through the whole family. A noble ancestor, and other noble lives and characters are successively brought to view therein—a benediction and an inspiration for high endeavor to present and future sons and daughters.

I had not extended my researches in my Munson line further back than my great-grandfather, Baszel, of Clan Joel, of New Haven and Hamden. I feel under profound obligation to our historian for bringing to light the records of his useful life—so much in the line of his, and our common ancestor, Capt. Thomas Munson. Esquire Baszel was very fortunate in his family alliances. His first wife was Keziah, daughter of Rev. Isaac Stiles and Esther Hooker, dau. of Mr. Samuel Hooker of Farmington, and great-granddaughter of Rev. Thomas Hooker of Hartford. I make no doubt he was all the more the good and useful man he was, for the meet help she rendered him. She was sister of the half blood of Pres. Ezra Stiles of Yale College, between whom and Esq. Munson and wife there existed an intimate friendship—expressed by an interchange of visits. The grand style and equipage of President Stiles on occasion of these visits to Hamden—which were notable events—made a deep impression upon the children of the neighborhood, and were well remembered and described by my grandmother, Mary (Bradley) Munson.

Undoubtedly Esq. Baszel had a treasure in the wife of his youth and the mother of most of his children, though she died comparatively young. His rare appreciation fairly bubbles over in the inscription on her tombstone standing to-day in the north Hamden cemetery, which I happen to have and I am sure will interest the ladies.

“ Keziah

the Excellent wife of Mr. Baszel Munson

She was industrious

She looked well to the ways

Of her own household

The heart of her husband

Safely trusted in her

Her children may rise up

And bless the Memory of

a most affectionate parent

She trusted in the righteousness

of Christ for pardon and Eternal life

and died Oct. 10th, 1768

A.E. tat. 38.”

(5) A quarter of a century ago, as you remember, the stores were filled with Munson's boots and shoes. The manufacturer of this well-known footwear, then a citizen of Albany, is with us to-day. He is now engaged in the production of a highly-prized typewriter, "The Munson." I call upon Stephen Munson, *etatis* seventy-eight, for some reminiscences.

Incidents are facts, and facts form the basis of life. Two young men, one a clerk in the largest dry-goods store of Hartford, the other teller of the Farmers & Mechanics' Bank, determined to form a debating club, and for this purpose asked of Mr. Pomeroy, the President of the bank, if we might have the use of the Directors' room one evening of the week, for this purpose. His reply was: "Yes, provided I may come in and warm my toes during the evening." The club was formed of thirteen,* six on a side, and a presiding officer. Mr. Pomeroy became much interested in us, and soon proposed to obtain for us the use of the Hartford Library, which was owned by eight gentlemen, Mr. A. M. Collins, my employer, being one of them. This consent was obtained, and the next step was to enlarge our club, these gentlemen assisting us to obtain the use of the City Council chamber. The following season a course of lectures was proposed, and liberally patronized at Gilman's Hall. The next step was the forming of the Young Men's Association, and the donation of the Hartford Library to them on the condition that the proprietors and their families should have the free use of the same. Following this movement, Sirs Collins and Pomeroy proposed to Mr. Wadsworth that he give a lot of land for the site, provided the citizens would donate \$20,000.00 to build a building, for the purposes of the Connecticut Historical Society, and the Young Men's Association, and a Gallery of Paintings, which form the present Wadsworth Athenæum of Hartford. All these young men proved good and able citizens so far as I know.

(6) On the southeastern border of Lake Erie, in the grape-growing region, is the pleasant town of Westfield. There and thereabout are many Munsons. They are represented in our gathering to-day by an attorney-at-law. Though he may denominate it—in the lingo of the day—as the crime of '96, I call upon Harlan L. Munson.

* Six of these boys were from Chester, Mass., viz., Stephen Munson, William Timker, William Campbell, John Wright, Aaron Bell, and Henry Collins.—*Ed.*

Mr. Chairman, dear Friends and Kindred:

When our toastmaster tells you he is committing the crime of '96 in calling on one of his own profession to make a speech with but a moment's notice, I can assure you he commits a greater crime than he thinks. Having had comparatively little experience in public speaking, I had determined to devote one-half of my time to telling you of my lack of preparation, and now in his introduction he has robbed me of that half.

However, I am very glad to be present at this reunion and to meet and to form the acquaintance of you, my relatives. With but one exception I have seen none of you before. I am the only representative of a branch of the Munson family which emigrated to Chautauqua County, New York, in 1818, to what was then the frontier. I have heard my grandfather tell of the fatigue and privations of the journey from Oneida County there. The trip was made in the winter through a country without roads or very rough ones. At times they had to follow the beach of Lake Erie and once the wagon became fast in the ice and debris and had to be chopped out with an axe.

I have observed one thing of special interest to me. That is the resemblance in features and general personal appearance of those here to-day and my nearer relatives at home. Those in my country are mostly engaged in agricultural pursuits, but they have what I have observed in you,—those qualities of honesty, sobriety and frugality which makes citizens on whom the state can always depend and which are the fundamental principles of this truly great nation.

I take great interest in meeting you face to face and becoming acquainted with those having with me a common ancestor. I remember my disappointment in childhood when I sought information of my ancestors from my grandfather. He could only tell me that his father came from Oneida County and that his father's people came from Connecticut. By our genealogy we now know it was true, but it was not even then enough for me. I wanted to go back farther.

There are a great many of us out in Chautauqua County. For many years local reunions have been held annually. We would be pleased to have you visit us. Probably many of you have attended beautiful literary Chautauqua and have

seen its pretty lake and know something of the country in which we live. Why, Chautauquans believe our county to be the center of the world. Storms and calamities of all descriptions occur around us, but, through all, Chautauquans are untouched and unharmed. If you have never been there, come; if you have visited it, come again. And while there take one of the prettiest drives in the world from Chautauqua Lake over the watershed of the St. Lawrence and Mississippi systems to Westfield on Lake Erie, and call on me and your other relatives, and we will assure you a hearty welcome.

(7) We may think of our Chaplain not only as a preacher, but also as teacher, editor, clerk of his township, and mayor of his city. I call upon the Rev. Absalom Monson Griffith.

This reunion is the most interesting and the most enjoyable gathering I have ever attended. I have been permitted to be a member of some great meetings, a guest at some royal banquets; but this meeting far surpasses them all. I appreciate it because of the privilege it affords of greeting so many of my blood relatives; I rejoice to see you all, and to take the friendly hand of so many of my kindred. Although far removed from our ancestral head, we are still one family. "We are one man's sons." We are his descendants of the eighth, ninth and tenth generations. "One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh;" thus the march of time goes on, and the thousands of our kindred, of former generations, are sleeping the ages away. But in the homes which they vacated, songs and rejoicings were heard over the new-born. Thus the generations have gone on, sorrowing and rejoicing. We also shall lie down to rest by the side of those who fell asleep before us.

This reunion should be a great blessing to us. It should remind us of the great reunion with the "general assembly and church of the first-born whose names are written in Heaven."

(8) The orator of the day may not escape the Toastmaster's attentions. People celebrate their forefathers; they seldom mention their foremothers. I announce as the next and final toast, "The Ladies." I call upon Clarence Munson Bushnell.

Mr. Bushnell made an impromptu response.

MEMORANDA.

The Committee of Arrangements designated by the officers of the Munson Association, expended much effort upon the duties assigned them. The finances were zealously and successfully cared for. Desirable places of meeting were secured and made ready, and a handsome dinner was provided and appropriately served. As to "the feast of reason," let the contents of this pamphlet bear witness. The Committee were efficiently assisted on Reunion day by the Secretary of the Association, by C. J. Monson, Sr., and by Edward B. and Harvey S. Munson.

The weather of August 19th was propitious, and about 200 members of the Family, perhaps a few more, participated in the festivities of the day. As soon as our craft was launched, it was auspiciously wafted onward by Professor Munson's beautiful voluntary on the piano. This meeting of 1896 was made illustrious by Mr. Bushnell's oration. The editor can compare it with no oratorical achievement which he has witnessed since George William Curtis pronounced his eulogy on Sumner, in Boston, twenty-two years ago. The social intercourse of the members of the family was animated, cordial and delightful. From the State of New York, a gentleman writes: "I enjoyed the morning and afternoon exceedingly." Another: "I have most agreeable recollections of my trip to New Haven." From Ohio, a gentleman writes: "It was the most enjoyable event of my life." From Wisconsin: "My mother enjoyed the Reunion of last August exceedingly."

One juvenile attendant gives promise of being good for something. She entertained the company in Harmonic-Hall parlor not only with a violin solo, but also with a recitation, both of them creditable and gratifying. This cousin was E. Gerster Liddle, of Salem, N. Y.

At the Banquet, the Chairman read a telegram from S. L. Munson, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Mun-

son Association, which was dated at Baniff Hotel, North-West Territories :

"Congratulations to Munsons celebrating Second Reunion. Profoundly regret necessary absence."

Epistolary greetings from others were read. One of these was from Mrs. Sophia Elizabeth Roberts, a Munson of remarkable gifts, and achievements not less remarkable, now seventy-eight years of age. She is a descendant of Capt. Stephen^s Munson ; her brother, Mr. John Munson, died last Christmas, at the age of eighty-two.

We quote : "It is a disappointment not to be with you *in propria persona*. However, this must not prevent me from expressing my appreciation of the masterpiece accomplished by our Rev. friend and *confrère*, Mr. Myron A. Munson . . . a task arduous in itself and surrounded with difficulties and obstacles so boundless as to have seemed almost insurmountable. I am sure all present will join me in sincerest thanks and appreciation of his wonderfully complete, interesting and beautiful work, a great acquisition to the present generation, and still greater to those who come after and to whom it will be a source of everliving interest."

The Report of the Treasurer, E. G. Munson, presented the following facts :

Received from C. J. Monson, Sr., Treas.,\$159.00
" " membership fees, . . .	184.00
" " portraits, . . .	790.00
" " sales of <i>Record</i> , . . .	1830.80
" " Guaranty Fund, . . .	1050.00*
" " other sources, . . .	143.50
Paid Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor, . . .	3430.00
" Association expenditures, . . .	815.67
Owe Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor, . . .	797.04
" for other indebtedness, . . .	83.37

Of twenty-seven Guarantors, twenty-one have paid fifty dollars each under their engagement. Forty-four Advance Subscribers have not yet claimed their Books.

The financial executive of the Committee of Arrangements for the Second Reunion, George M. Curtis, reports the following receipts: One dollar from Miss Lillian A. Munson and Dr. W. W. Munson ; five dollars, George A. Munson of

* Returned in Books, or returnable in Books or cash.

Smyrna, N. Y., Mrs. Cleora F. M. Judd, Mrs. Robert B. Goodyear, Capt. W. V. McMaken of Toledo, and Harvey Munson Baker; ten dollars, Mrs. F. T. Proctor, Mrs. T. R. Proctor, William D. Baldwin of Yonkers, George A. Post of New York, George M. Curtis, George Munson of Brooklyn, Walter D. Munson, Edgar Munson, and C. La Rue Munson; twenty-five dollars, Frank E. Hotchkiss of New Haven; by the sale of Dinner tickets, \$126;* total, \$268.

The following expenditures: Financial circulars, \$1.15, Reunion circulars and postage, \$46.68, ribbon for 300 badges, \$10.50, do. officers' do., \$0.52, printing do., and dinner tickets, \$2.75, 400 programmes, \$4.25, rent of Chapel, \$3.00, janitor's fee, \$2.00, Harmonie Hall, \$30.00, Dinner, \$135.00.

Balance, \$32.15, to be applied to printing the Proceedings, along with the following contributions for the purpose: One dollar each, Dr. R. B. Goodyear, Rev. Frederick Munson; \$2.00, F. H. B. Munson, George Munson (Bkln.), Stephen Munson, John K. Judd, and another (name lost); \$5.00, Walter D. Munson; \$10.00, Gilbert D. Munson; \$25.00, Clarence M. Bushnell; total, \$84.15. (The Proceedings of 1887, 500 copies, cost \$150.05, besides \$12.30 paid for design and cut for the cover.)

We are indebted to the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. Co. for half-fare return tickets over all its roads. Sixty-seven certificates entitling persons to this advantage, were signed by the Secretary.

22 A paper prepared by Myron A. Munson on *The Traditions concerning the Origin of the American Munsons*, which was designed for the Reunion, but for which there was no room, was published in The Journal and Courier on the morning of the Reunion. Four points are treated: first, whence did the Family come, and of what nationality was it? second, what was the number of Munsons who immigrated? third, what was the period of the first Munson migration? and, fourth, where, according to the traditions, did the Family first settle?

* Provision was made for 160 dinners.

ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA.

Proceedings of First Reunion.

- Page 35, line 22. Note that in 1653, two pieces were mounted at the harbor, and two placed on the Green. The record of June 14, 1654 made mention of "The great gunns . . at the water side and . . these that stand neere y^e meeting house." And again in 1662—three "great gunns" "at water side upon sh—carriages"; three "in the Market place upon field carriages."
- Page 46, line 12. The Munson who was "of Newhaven north village" was not Thomas³, as was supposed when the Address was prepared, but his son, Thomas⁴.

The Munson Record.

- Page ix, lines 23, 24. Change "Featherby" to *Featherly*.
- Page x, lines 4, 5. "Meyer" should be *Myer*.
- Page xiv. Add that the abbreviations indicating political and ecclesiastic affiliations, signify simply preference, not necessarily active membership.
- Page xix, line 38. Note that the Israel Munson portrait was contributed by Mrs. Helen (Munson) Meaker and Mrs. Henrietta (Clark) Batcheller.
- Page xxi. The Motto means, *Ready for my country*. "Prest" is Old French.
- Page xxv, line 45. For "Oct." read *Aug.*
- Page 167. Add in regard to Stephen⁸ the following items from the new volume of Dexter's *Yale Graduates*: "From 1752 to 1755 he served as College Butler, and meantime he studied medicine, and for a few years (probably not over ten) practiced in the northern part of the town, now North Haven. In 1766 he was employed as a tavern-keeper in New Haven; and later (at least from 1767 to 1783) was deputy-sheriff and keeper of the county jail, which then stood on the western side of the New Haven Green."
- Page 374, line 17. Omit "iii. Julia⁸, d. 1843, æ. 46."
- Page 419, line 45. Lillian E.⁹ m. 18 Oct. 1871 Charles C. Johnson; res. Westville, Ct.
- Page 749, line 40. Erase *ville* from "Thompsonville."
- Page 963, line 41. Change "actor" to *editor*.
- Page 1087, line 16. "Cam" should be *Cave*.

REGISTER

OF THE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY PRESENT.

France.—

Clifford F. Snyder, Artist, Paris.

Wisconsin.—

Mrs. Sarah J. Schoonmaker, Philanthropist, Milwaukee.

Illinois.—

Stephen Munson, Manufacturer, Chicago.

Mrs. Stephen Munson, Chicago.

Kentucky.—

Jacob Frederick Munson, Captain U. S. A., Fort Thomas.

Michigan.—

Rebecca E. Swift, Teacher, Ishpeming.

Ohio.—

Abraham Monson Griffith, Clergyman, Sabina.

Mrs. Mary E. Henderson, Toledo.

Gilbert D. Munson, Judge, Zanesville.

Pennsylvania.—

C. La Rue Munson, Lawyer, Williamsport.

Mrs. C. La Rue Munson, Williamsport.

Mrs. Fisher Gay, Wyoming.

Myrtle B. Gay, Bookkeeper (in Scranton), Wyoming.

New Jersey.—

Charles H. Munson, Manufacturing Jeweller, Newark.

New York.—

Mrs. Samuel L. Munson, Albany.

Paul B. Munson, Collegian, Albany.

Frederick Munson, Clergyman, Brooklyn.

Mrs. Frederick Munson, Brooklyn.

Miss Lillian A. Munson, Librarian, Brooklyn.

George Munson, Purchasing Agent, Brooklyn.

Mrs. George Munson, Brooklyn.

Walter D. Munson, Shipping, Brooklyn.

Mrs. Walter D. Munson, Brooklyn.

Orange Munson, Farmer, Brookton.

Clarence Munson Bushnell, Lawyer, Buffalo.

Edward G. Munson, Manufacturer, Cohoes.

Miss Lydia Munson, Elmira.
Mrs. Mary (Munson) Corliss, New York.
Frederick B. Wightman, Lawyer, New York.
Mrs. Abbie H. Wightman, New York.
Mrs. Mary G. Winslow, New York.
Francis A. Winslow, New York.
Mrs. Cynthia (Munson) Wood, New York.
Henry T. Bronson, Banker (in N. Y. C.), Rye.
Mrs. Henry T. Bronson, Rye.
Mrs. William E. Liddle, Salem.
Miss E. Gerster Liddle, Salem.
Mrs. Adalaide (Munson) Ash, Sing Sing.
George A. Munson, Financier, Smyrna.
Edwin F. Smith, Manufacturer, Syracuse.
Mrs. Clara (Munson) Smith, Syracuse.
Harlan L. Munson, Lawyer, Westfield.

Massachusetts.—

Franklin H. B. Munson,* Lawyer, Adams.
John K. Judd, Wholesale Paper, Holyoke.
Mrs. Cleora F. (Munson) Judd, Holyoke.
Miss Cleora Marion Judd, Holyoke.

Connecticut.—

Mrs. Frank W. Munson, Bethel.
Willard L. Munson, Organist, Branford.
William H. Comley, Judge, Bridgeport.
Mrs. Lucy Isabel Comley, Bridgeport.
Rowland B. Lacey, Treasurer, Bridgeport.
Frederick W. Storrs, Superintendent, Bridgeport.
Mrs. Martha (Munson) Storrs, Bridgeport.
Augustus Munson, Canaan Mountain.
Mrs. George A. Steele, Cheshire.
Dickerman Munson Bassett, Manufacturer, Derby.
Mrs. D. M. Bassett, Derby.
Miss Lillie May Bassett, Derby.
Mrs. Sarah (Munson) Camp, Durham.
Ruth A. Hitchcock, East Haven.
Miss Mary Field Munson, Guilford.
M. Louise Hitchcock, Guilford.
Orrin Munson, Fruit-grower, Hamden.
Mrs. Orrin Munson, Hamden.
Miss Nora A. Munson, Hamden.
William I. Munson, Hamden.
Mrs. William I. Munson, Hamden.
Mrs. Julia R. Simpson, Hamden.
Edwin D. Swift, Physician, Hamden.

* Munson not by birth, but by his mother's second marriage, to Erastus Munson.

John W. Talmadge, Hamden.
Mrs. J. W. Talmadge, Hamden.
Miss Alice Gilbertine Munson, Trained-nurse, Hartford.
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